

Supporting **LOCAL** sport **Daily Echo**

**BRITISH & IRISH LIONS TOUR  
12-PAGE PREVIEW SPECIAL**

**STARTS: PAGE 15**



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## TRANSFER TARGETS

*Where do  
Saints need to  
strengthen  
ahead of  
2013/14?*

See pages 2-3



# A true legend

LEGEND:  
Ron Davies

## FORMER SAINTS ACE JOHN SYDENHAM PAYS TRIBUTE TO RON DAVIES

**FORMER Saints star John Sydenham has spoken of his sadness at the death of fellow Saints legend Ron Davies.**

News of Davies' passing, just a day short of his 71st birthday, emerged this week, with moving tributes pouring in ever since.

"There are so many memories of Ron. But the main thing is that,

not only was he a great player, he was a great guy," Sydenham, pictured, said.

"He was just such a lovely character and I'm really sad. I'm hoping that he ended up happy.

"He was just such a great bloke to know. I'm really proud to have known him and to have been associated with him in that era."

● Full story: Page 4



## TERRY PAINE



**Saints legend's  
EXCLUSIVE column**

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## NON-LEAGUE



**Six pages of the best  
coverage around**  
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## YOUTH FOOTY



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## CRICKET



**SEPL's African links**

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# Saints Spotlight

## Sports Quiz

- 1 Crystal Palace's Wembley goal hero Kevin Phillips has lost three previous Championship play-off finals – with which clubs?
- 2 England batsman Joe Root plays for which LV County Championship side?
- 3 Scotland's new rugby union coach Vern Cotter is currently in charge of which French Top 14 club?
- 4 Hearts' new signing, defender Danny Wilson, began his career with which club?
- 5 The Nashville Predators play in which major American sporting league?
- 6 British drivers Martin Brundle and Mark Blundell were team-mates at which Formula One team in 1993?
- 7 Who won the 2012 UK Snooker Championship?
- 8 Who finished as top scorer in the 1999/2000 Premier League season?
- 9 Rising tennis star Grigor Dimitrov hails from which country?
- 10 Which Scandinavian city hosted the 1952 Summer Olympic Games?
- 11 Roberto Martinez joined Wigan in 2009 as manager from which club?
- 12 Who was the last person – outside Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer – to win the French Open men's singles?
- 13 Name the men to hold professional victories over world heavyweight champion Wladimir Klitschko.
- 14 Lee Smith is a utility back for which Super League club?
- 15 Who are the current holders of the ICC Champions Trophy?
- 16 In what year did Tim Henman reach the semi-finals of the French Open?
- 17 Who did Roberto Martinez replace as Wigan manager?
- 18 Which team won the Champions Trophy when it was last held in England in 2004?
- 19 Which club does Lions captain Sam Warburton play for?
- 20 Sergio Perez joined McLaren from which F1 team?
- 21 Which former England captain was an assistant manager with Scotland during the 2010 World Cup qualifying campaign?
- 22 Which female British former world record-holding swimmer also represented New Zealand?
- 23 Which New Zealand cricketer was sacked as Black Caps captain last year?
24. What is Northampton Town's nickname?
- 25 Which ex-Formula One driver beat his brother to first place as they finished one-two at the 2001 Montreal Grand Prix?
- 26 What was the first Spanish club managed by Manuel Pellegrini?
- 27 How many English clubs did Mark Hughes play for?
- 28 Who are the reigning Twenty20 world champions?
- 29 What is the name of Baltimore's Major League Baseball franchise?
- 30 Marc Marquez races for which MotoGP team?

Answers: 1 Sunderland, West Brom and Blackpool; 2 Yorkshire; 3 Clermont; 4 Rangers; 5 The NHL; 6 Ligier; 7 Mark Selby; 8 Kevin Phillips; 9 Bulgaria; 10 Helsinki; 11 Swansea; 12 Gaston Gaudio and Lamon Brewster; 14 Wakefield Trinity Wildcats; 15 Australia; 16 2004; 17 Steve Bruce; 18 West Indies; 19 Cardiff Blues; 20 Saubert; 21 Terry Butcher; 22 Zoe Baker; 23 Ross Taylor; 24 The Cobblers; 25 Ralf Schumacher; 26 Villarreal; 27 Four Nations; 28 India; 29 Orléans; 30 Repsol Honda.

# GET READY FOR A

## Adam Leitch

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CHIEF SPORTS REPORTER

**WITH the past season becoming a distant memory and thoughts already turning to the next campaign, the minds of many football fans are running gleefully wild.**

Uppermost in their thoughts are discussions over just what signings are required to push a club forward, to make that next big step.

The musings are no different for fans of Premier League clubs, all the way down the ladder to those in non-league, maybe even park football.

They are certainly occupying plenty of space in the minds of Saints fans, who have seen their club have a wonderful first season back in the top flight, but with big ambitions to push on apace they know that the squad cannot stand still.

There are sure to be some ins, some outs, some moves that don't quite happen, and a few wild rumours that were probably never even true in the first place.

This is the summer transfer window, the place to dream.

Here at *The Pink* we take a look at the areas Mauricio Pochettino may well target as part of his summer plans.

### GOALKEEPER

Unless Saints have an unlimited budget, it's very hard to imagine Mauricio Pochettino prioritising a goalkeeper as a top signing this summer.

Saints have three keepers vying for the number one spot and that seems plenty enough.

And, with two of them having been handed extended contracts in the closing months of the season, it seems there is no real desire to make a change.

Artur Boruc, pictured below, has been the number one for the vast majority of 2013.

The Polish stopper had a bit of a chequered start to life at St Mary's but settled down to make the place between the posts his own.

Boruc initially only signed a contract until the end of the season but, after penning a new two year deal, it would certainly seem Pochettino has made the decision to keep him high amongst his options.

Boruc's chief competition for the goalkeeping position is Kelvin Davis.

The veteran stopper started the season as number one but found himself in and out of the side before being usurped by Boruc.

Like Boruc, he may have been unsure of what the future held for him, but a contract extension means he is at St Mary's to stay.

With those two experienced keepers on hefty contracts, it is hard to imagine another keeper coming in who is going to compete to be first choice.

And, with Paolo Gazzaniga still learning his game, Saints have good strength in depth in this position.

**Verdict:** With three first team options



## Where do Saints need to strengthen ahead of 2013/14?

**available it is hard to imagine Saints recruiting another keeper this summer.**

### DEFENCE

It was the major area for concern in the early part of last season but by the end of the campaign had become far more stable.

Saints boast four first team quality centre halves.

Jose Fonte and Jos Hooiveld both recovered from shaky starts to establish their credentials in the top flight.

Maya Yoshida has been a superb signing and really helped shore up the leaky backline when it was most in trouble.

Vegard Forren has been pretty non-existent so far, but with a full pre-season behind him Saints fans will see what

persuaded the club to part with £4m for his services.

The other centre halves that sit behind those four, such as Dan Seaborne and even Aaron Martin, are well down the pecking order now and are likely to be amongst those that leave in the summer.

The full back positions arguably do need a bit of strengthening.

That is not in terms of first choice players, because in right back Nathaniel Clyne and left back Luke Shaw (pictured left), Saints have two of the hottest young English defensive properties in the division.

However, the odd injury or suspension has shown up a lack of cover.

At left back the only cover for Shaw has been Danny Fox, and when he hasn't been available



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# Saints Spotlight

## SUMMER SPREE...



**STAYING OR GOING:**  
Saints players  
celebrate a win in  
2012/13 – but what will  
next season bring?

**BELOW:** Gaston  
Ramirez.

either it's been a case of considering moving Clyne across and shifting Jack Cork to right back. One player's absence should not mean weakening other areas of the team to compensate.

Likewise the cover for Clyne is debatable. Frazer Richardson and Danny Butterfield are both out of contract this summer and it's hard to see them being retained.

**Verdict:** Any centre half signing would be a top quality player to come straight into the first team. At least one full back could be recruited for squad cover.

### MIDFIELD

This area can basically be broken up into two blocks – the defensive

midfield two that sit in front of the back four, and the attacking three in behind the main striker.

The defensive two have been dominated this season by Morgan Schneiderlin and Jack Cork, who have been superb together.

It's virtually impossible to see that pairing being broken up, though as Steven Davis is the only other player really considered for those roles, and he has proved himself further forward, there could be an argument for a third to be signed this summer to compete.

Whether that is the case or not probably depends on whether Mauricio Pochettino sees James Ward-Prowse in the same bracket as Nigel Adkins obviously did.

If he does then that will be seen as adequate cover already at the club.

As for the attacking three there is a plethora of options, so again any signing would only surely be a genuine first team player rather than a squad player.

Across the three roles you already have Adam Lallana, Jay Rodriguez, Jason Puncheon, Gaston Ramirez, Guly do Prado and Steven Davis regularly competing for places.

On the face of it, that is plenty enough in the way of numbers.

There has been talk of Ramirez being sold on this summer after a mixed first season where he didn't quite sparkle in the way a £12m signing might. Perhaps too much was expected of him as he adapted to life in England.

If Ramirez does go then his replacement could be this summer's marquee signing – a player of genuine pedigree and repute.

**Verdict:** If Saints do sell Ramirez this summer Saints may replace him with a signing of similar stature. In the defensive area it all depends on whether Pochettino sees Ward-Prowse as a first team player.

### FORWARD

Saints legend Matt Le Tissier believes another top class striking option should be a top priority for the club this summer if they are to progress and it's hard to argue with him.

There is no doubt that Saints have been utterly reliant, over reliant at times maybe, on Rickie Lambert, pictured below.

He has delivered the goods time and time again. He has simply been absolutely brilliant for the club.



But Saints cannot just keep on hoping and assuming he will be there, fit and firing.

That he has stayed so injury free is as remarkable as his goalscoring record given the physical style of his game.

There he has been though, the only Saints player to feature in every Premier League game this season.

It's just as well too because when you take Lambert out of the mix you are left scratching your head for alternatives.

Jay Rodriguez is an accomplished striker and could fill in, but he has proven so effective in the three behind the main forward that you wouldn't want to lose his threat from that area.

Emmanuel Mayuka joined last summer for £3.5m and has made a whole host of substitute appearances, but as yet hasn't done enough to suggest he is going to be a regular starter and goalscorer at Premier League level.

Perhaps after a season settling in that may change, but you can only judge on what we have seen so far.

Beyond that you are looking at playing Guly do Prado there but it's hard to find much else with the likes of Tadanari Lee, Billy Sharp and Lee Barnard seemingly so far adrift that their days at the club appear numbered.

That all adds up to the thinking that Saints may well spend on a striker.

**Verdict:** Saints will surely at last get some frontline back-up and competition for Rickie Lambert. If there is to be a big money, big name signing this summer, don't be surprised if it comes in this position.

## BOOK of the WEEK

**A RACE FOR MADMEN  
THE EXTRAORDINARY HISTORY  
OF THE TOUR DE FRANCE**

By Chris Sidwells

Sportsbookofthemoth.com price:  
£6.74, saving 25 per cent on rrp

WITH the start of the 100th edition only a few weeks away and cycling's burgeoning popularity showing no sign of relenting, we can expect to witness the publication of a veritable mountain of books dealing with the history of the Tour de France – enough, perhaps, to line the route to the top of Mont Ventoux.

Your reviewer first attended Le Tour several years ago, a fabulous experience for roadside spectators, most of whom are in position hours before riders come hurtling by. The intervening period is spent chatting to locals, sharing their wine and catching gifts distributed by the Carnivale, a parade of sponsors throwing their wares to the millions who line the roads.

But it's the riders, their teams, strategies, disputes and successes that capture the attention for a month. In many respects, Le Tour is 3-D chess, delivered to France's doorstep.

Much of A Race For Madmen has been covered elsewhere, though Chris Sidwells still presents plenty of new material and anecdotes regarding a race which began in July 1903.

In January of that year the newspaper L'Auto announced that it would sponsor a race of 2,228km around France.

Within six months, it had attracted 21 sponsored riders and 39 amateurs, together with millions of French cycling enthusiasts. On the final stage, more than 100,000 people, described as a "hedge of fans" by one rider, stood and cheered the remaining 21 competitors just outside of Versailles. A further crowd of 20,000 awaited the peleton's arrival in Paris.

The race's impact upon national consciousness was phenomenal, a feature of Le Tour to this day.

The first riders were described as "bulls, not men", but all, surely, even in this hi-tech age, are mad. Go see for yourself this summer – A Race For Madmen would be a fine accompaniment.

**Quiz question:** We've teamed up with Sports Book of the Month & have a copy of A Race For Madmen to give away.

To win this week's sports book, go to their website ([www.sports-bookofthemoth.com](http://www.sports-bookofthemoth.com)) and answer the following question:

**To which rider is the Tour de France's polka dot jersey awarded?**



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# Hodgson is not the man for England



WITH England grinding out a dull draw against the Republic Of Ireland it shows that the England line-up offered little, if any, sign that anything will change under Roy Hodgson.

The fact that he has publicly stated that Rickie Lambert won't feature in his plans just hammers home just how bereft of ideas England are.

Rickie Lambert is too old apparently, the message that sends out is that regardless of how good you are, unless you've reached your peak at 28 or under you might as well forget playing for your country.

Can you imagine Sir Alex Ferguson adopting that sort of attitude?

The most successful British manager would have had to kiss goodbye to Ryan Giggs, Paul Scholes, Teddy Sheringham in their most productive years if that were the case.

This country seems to be eternally hampered by its obsession with "the next generation" rather than the here and now.

This obsession with producing a side that will be competing together three years down the line seems to be stifling any chance we have of winning something here and now.

Rickie Lambert, right, is the top English goal scorer in the Premiership; Andy Carroll is not.

You can argue that in a few years Carroll may be a better player, but right now I'd play Lambert over him all day long.

He's a better team player, has a better first touch and brings other players into the play.

Carroll is an old fashioned war horse of a forward, the sort of player that years ago we were told was out of vogue and not really a modern day striker.

A sudden dearth of "modern strikers" and all of a sudden he's England quality... You couldn't make it up. Rickie Lambert's problem is that he came up through the leagues at a later age and it's not "on trend" to be that sort of footballer these days.

In modern football you either have to have come through the ranks of a top club or be discovered and then play for a top club.

The fact that Lambert has scored shed loads of goals in every league seems to be over looked. Carroll scored 14 goals in his first season in the Premiership, which is a fair return, but every season since has been pretty poor, with goal tallies of 10 and six for Liverpool and West Ham.

The man I want up front for England is someone who has proven themselves to be a natural goal scorer at any level, not someone whose ability to find the net ebbs and flows with each season.

The sad truth is that we will always be a second rate footballing nation as long as we are continually obsessing with the next three years as opposed to playing the best team players in the best positions.

So often a successful national side doesn't mean playing a team full of stars more a side playing a group of players, acting as a team.

If you were to compare Manchester United and Manchester City's team player by player then you'd be hard pressed to say United were the better side, but their league positions and results tell you United were the better team. It takes a great manager to get a team of superstars playing as one and, let's be honest, Roy Hodgson isn't that man.



## Saints Spotlight

# Joker Davies was always a class act



TAKING TO THE AIR: Ron Davies in typical aerial action.

**Gordon Simpson**

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SPORTS REPORTER



**JOHN Sydenham has spoken of his sadness at the death of fellow Saints legend Ron Davies, but also his great pride in knowing the man.**

News of Davies' passing, just a day short of his 71st birthday, emerged this week, with moving tributes pouring in ever since.

The former Welsh international died on May 24, in a hospital in Albuquerque, New Mexico – the American state where he lived in a trailer park.

Davies played at Saints from 1966 until 1973, scoring 153 goals in 281 appearances, and establishing himself as one of the greatest front men ever to don the club's colours.

Along with Sydenham and Terry Paine, he formed part of a famed attacking trio at The Dell in the late 1960s.

Paine and Sydenham, operating on the flanks, would provide much of the service for their imposing and prolific centre forward.

In his first three seasons with Saints, Davies scored 85 goals in 119 top-flight matches. His first campaign saw him net 37 league goals, and 43 across all competitions, to top the country's scoring charts, ahead of

names such as Geoff Hurst, Jimmy Greaves, Bobby Tambling and Denis Law.

But, according to Sydenham, it was not just his presence on the field that made him so popular.

"There are so many memories of Ron. But the main thing is that, not only was he a great player, he was a great guy," he said.

"He was just such a lovely character and I'm really sad. I'm hoping that he ended up happy.

"He was just such a great bloke to know. I'm really proud to have known him and to have been associated with him in that era."

Davies was brought to The Dell by Ted Bates to lead the line for the club on their arrival in the First Division.

Bates had initially hoped to sign Chelsea's England international, Tambling, but felt the £80,000 asking price was too high.

Instead, he went to Norwich and paid £55,000 for the services of another 24-year-old forward, Davies.

"Ted obviously saw something in him that nobody else did, and he was just spot on with it," explained Sydenham.

It didn't take long to find out just how

shrewd Bates had been. Davies scored in ten consecutive league matches, from early September to early November, in his first season.

He became famed for his ability in the air, with the classic pose of him leaping high above opposition defenders to power home a header becoming something of an iconic image in the football club's history.

Yet Sydenham said the focus on that side of his game meant justice was not always done to the rest of it.

"I think he was very underrated on the ground," said Sydenham, below, who made 402 appearances for Saints, from 1957

to 1969.

"He was so strong and held the ball up so well. He

had a lot of other ability, not just heading the ball."

That 23 of his 37 league goals in that first season came via his foot underlines the point.

Sydenham, 73, who lives in Australia, said that the focus on his heading at the expense of the rest of his game could annoy Davies at times.

"I think it did," he said. "Obviously, that was the more spectacular aspect, but he did score some great goals with his feet."

Sydenham last saw Davies in 1998, at the celebrations of Ted Bates' 60th anniversary at the club, but had been in touch with him on-and-off over the years.

He admitted the death of his partner, Chris, in 2009 had hit Davies hard, but added that he hoped he was happy at the end.

Sydenham's memory of his old teammate is certainly one of a larger-than-life, happy-go-lucky man.

He said: "He was a bit of a larrikin, Ron. He loved to joke. He was always playing pranks when we were away, and generally annoying people.

"Ron liked a good time. I remember sometimes turning up for training and he had only just come in from somewhere. I remember him coming into training in a dinner suit one time. But, regardless, he was a great trainer. He worked hard and he played hard. That was Ron. He was just a great character."



**THE PINK: BEST FOR SAINTS NEWS AND VIEWS**



# Paine's World

The Saints legend's **EXCLUSIVE** column on all things football



## The hard work begins for promoted trio...



PARTY TIME: Crystal Palace celebrate their play-off final win at Wembley last Monday.

**NEXT year's Premier League line-up has been confirmed, following Monday's Championship play-off final at Wembley.**

Now the real work begins for the promoted sides.

While the windfall coming their way for reaching the top flight has increased infinitely due to a new television deal, the chances of survival are slim.

Spending their newly-acquired wealth wisely will perhaps be the key to making this more than just a brief tea party with footballing royalty.

Looking at the three teams that have come up, there is plenty to be done.

Cardiff claimed their spot among the elite more than a month ago and, after numerous play-off heartbreaks, will join fellow Welsh side Swansea in the Premier League for the first time in their history.

In fact, Cardiff have now climbed from the fourth tier of English football to the top in just 15 years and, on the surface at least, they look like they can challenge at this level.

Owned by a Malaysian busi-

ness group, they will certainly have the most financial clout of the promoted sides.

But let QPR be a warning to them, spending doesn't always buy success, it sometimes buys disaster.

First on manager Malky Mackay's shopping list will be a new striker, for, while Cardiff were rather free-scoring in the Championship, their goals were spread around the team.

Heidar Helguson was top scorer with a measly eight goals and, with Craig Bellamy running out of puff, a new focal point in attack is a must.

Cardiff's strongest asset is undoubtedly their midfield, which contributed 30 goals last season.

Young Craig Noone impressed throughout and, if he manages to maintain that sort of form over the course of next season, he could play a big role in keeping them up.

Finishing second were Hull and it is surprising to note that the team that finishes second has stayed up on the most occasions since the advent of the Premier League – as Saints did this season, while Reading, who pipped them to the title, were relegated.

In Bruce, Hull have a manager with proven Premier League experience.

The former Manchester United defender will know that keeping this side up is going to be a tough assignment.

Their modest goal difference last season is an indication of how closely-run most of their matches were.

Squeezing out narrow wins in the Championship is very different to doing so in the Premier League. They need to strengthen considerably if they are to survive.

Finally, we get to Crystal Palace, who secured a route back to the top with an extra-time winner in the play-off final from a 39-year-old, the former Southampton striker, Kevin Phillips.

They will bring a bit of spice to the league, with their eccentric manager, Ian Holloway, and their style of play.

Only Watford managed more goals in the Championship, as Holloway embraced the same expansive style that took Blackpool to the Premier League.

Hopefully, he has learnt from that very brief spell at the top,

where, despite producing some memorable victories, his gung ho attitude ended up being his downfall.

Palace also have to deal with the loss of Wilfried Zaha to Manchester United. The young Ivorian proved a revelation in the Championship and he played a key role in their promotion.

The £15m in transfer fees they received for him need to be spent wisely if they are to keep their heads above water.

All three promoted teams will have to spend, and spend wisely, if they are to crack it in the big league.

But each has their own elements that will certainly add to the league in some way, shape, or form, while each has a point to prove, be it the players, managers, supporters, or the club as a whole.

They will be here for one season at least, and they will line their pockets quite handsomely during their stay.

They might just do a bit more than that, though, and, given the mid-table melee this year, will feel quite confident they can go toe-to-toe with the big guns. It should make for a fascinating season.

## Ron was a Saints legend

RON Davies. That name brings back so many wonderful memories.

Big Ron was adored by all those lucky Southampton supporters who were fortunate enough to see him in his full pomp.

As a player, he was supreme. He ruled the opposing penalty areas with his outstanding ability in the air, and his clinical finishing was to make the difference in those early days for us in the First Division, as we managed to survive.

I do get irritated at times with people who believe English football only began in 1992, with the inception of the Premier League.

Therefore, I, along with many other ex-players and supporters, really appreciate what historian David Bull and his colleagues at Hagiology Publishing do in keeping the history of the club alive.



Ron Davies, above, could have played in any era.

It is said that I made Ron Davies with a stream of crosses, but I like to also believe that the big Welshman helped to make Terry Paine.

It was such a shock when I received the news this week regarding his passing. As a player, I always thought of him as indestructible.

He was a lovely guy, full of fun, and a player that trained hard, with the best physique you could ever wish for.

He had a great sense of humour, especially when he would pin up a caricature that he had drawn on the notice board, depicting some player or member of management in various compromising situations.

Players of Ron's ilk don't come around very often.

I was indeed fortunate to play alongside him in many games during his career at Saints.

He was a man who you could really say stood head and shoulders over most others, whether on the field or off it.



SOUTHERN  
**Daily Echo**

# FIND THE BALL



## THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT

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Mark an X with a ballpoint pen on the picture where you consider that position to be – clear rubber stamps and self adhesive labels will also be accepted.

Every coupon will be carefully examined and the jackpot prize will be paid to the entrant whose cross marks the exact centre of the ball when the photograph was taken.

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The nearest-miss prize will be paid out to the competitor whose cross is nearest to the centre of the ball when there is no jackpot winner.

When a jackpot has been won the next week's prize reverts back to £6,000 and the nearest-miss prize at £1,000.

If the Jackpot is not won after 45 weeks, when standing at £50,000, three nearest miss prizes will be awarded totalling £24,000 – with a first prize of £12,000, a second prize of £8,000 and a third prize of £4,000.

The jackpot for the following week will be £26,000 with £1,000 being added each week. The nearest miss prize will be £2,000 with £50 added each week until the jackpot prize reaches £50,000.

If there is still no entry showing the exact centre of the ball, the process is repeated until there is an exact centre of the ball winner.

If there is more than one winner the jackpot will be shared and, similarly, if there is more than one runner-up the nearest miss prize will also be shared.

### RESULTS



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Thursday  
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2013  
Names of winners will be published on  
**Saturday, 8 June**  
or **Sunday 9 June**  
2013

An incident in an Eastleigh v Dover match

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Mrs J Hickman, Southampton, Hants  
Mr B Hodgson, Southampton, Hants  
Mr R Jacobs, Eastleigh, Hants  
Mr J Limburn, Southampton, Hants

Mr C Lock, Everton, Hants  
Mr A McLean, Southampton, Hants  
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**Daily Echo**



# Adam Rant



This week's big talking points  
with **Adam Leitch**

## Cole is no leader

NICE to see Ashley Cole given the England captain's armband. Oh wait, that was sarcasm.

Cole's elevation to lead his country, to take on one of the most prestigious roles that English sport has to offer, was another example of the wonderful world of football and the bubble it lives in.

All the problems he has had down the years, most brought on entirely by himself, the fact he won't even do the pre-match interviews with the media, and yet because he wins his 100th cap we have to follow this

mad protocol. And what's more we have to listen to the utter rubbish about how he deserves it.

Nobody is taking away from the prestige of Cole winning 100 caps for his country.

That is a mark of how good a footballer he has been over the years and still is.

What is in question is not his football ability, but whether he deserves to be the team's captain, to be the leader for a nation.

Not many have seen the character traits that would normally constitute such an

honour being handed over.

It was admittedly an awkward situation for Roy Hodgson.

If he didn't give Cole the armband he would have been in a tricky position because of what he would have been saying about him, even if it is what many people appear to think.

But by handing it over he is accused of being the latest to devalue the armband to such an extent that seemingly little consideration is given as to whether the recipient is a suitable candidate for the job



CAPTAIN: Ashley Cole in action against Ireland this week.

## Is Mark Hughes destined to fail?

AFTER his disaster at QPR, Mark Hughes might not have been able to be too fussy over his next managerial role.

By taking on Stoke though the ex-Saint has another tough job on his hands.

Tony Pulis has done a fine job with the club, lifting them into the top flight and keeping them there season after season.

All right, his style of play has come in for some criticism, but nobody could argue with the results.

But his departure following the end of the season seemed to be vaguely because there was a feeling he had taken the club as far as he could.



MARK HUGHES

Well, that's because he has taken the club as far as they can go. Without some massive injection of cash, or a whole heap more fans coming through the gates of a bigger ground, it's hard to see how they can progress.

To be a relatively stable Premier League club is about as good as it gets for Stoke.

How exactly Hughes can go in there and do any better is hard to imagine.

Perhaps he could change the style and make Stoke a more cultured Premier League side. Perhaps he could do well in a cup competition.

But the style has been a success for a club with limited resources and Stoke did get to the final of the FA Cup final a couple of years ago.

For Hughes it looks like a job where he can probably only do worse than Pulis.

In terms of his career ambitions he needs to do well at Stoke.

But it's almost impossible to see what they can achieve that will be above and beyond what Pulis did, and therefore constitute a success.

# Davies: A legend to all Saints fans

IT'S been an incredible experience covering the sad death of Ron Davies.

In the media we tend to use the word legend perhaps a little too often, but what's clear is that it can apply to Davies.

Adam Rant wasn't quite alive to see Davies play for Saints, but has heard fabled stories of the striker's ability down the years.

Indeed, Rant's own dad hero worshipped Davies as a young fan on the terraces of The Dell.

It's been a frightening number of times Adam Rant has been regaled of the tales of how 'give it to Ron, on his head', as he was known, used to hang in the air before powering a header into the net.

Amongst the proudest stories were the black eye given by a wayward fierce header and when he got to mark Big Ron as he played local league football. Apparently he was fouled as Ron scored a goal.

### HAPPY MEMORIES

It's strange though that so many fans seem to have their own happy memories of Ron and have been so keen to share them.

Adam Rant's phone is usually reserved for more mundane matters, but the last few days it has been abuzz with people wanting to reminisce about Ron.

He was a hero of a player to many, probably not surprising given his remarkable goalscoring feats and colossus like physical power in a day when no prisoners were taken on the field of play, but he was a friend to so many as well.

Plenty of fans have their own stories of when they met Ron out and about, when



FOND MEMORIES: Give it to Ron, on his head.

they played with or against him in local league football when his professional playing days were over or when they had a pint and a chat with him at a local pub.

The web he weaved over a spellbound generation seems quite remarkable, the likes of which you rarely ever see.

One fan called in this week, talking about his friend Ron and remembering

playing tennis against him, and the striker heading a tennis ball into a netball hoop time and again.

Everybody remembers him as Hughie Fisher described him, the great joker, the man who was so fun to be around.

Perhaps his mystique was enhanced still further by the fact he moved to America and fell out of the public eye over here. His death sounds like a sad

affair, without family or friends with him at the last and a search now taking place to find relatives back here to claim the body.

But he surely would have been delighted with the outpouring since he has gone. He was not alone, he was always and will always be in the hearts and minds of so many.

Give to Ron, on his head - forever.



# Non-league Football

## Non-league News

### Crazy Gang x2!

**GOSPORT** Borough won't be the only club bringing spirit of the Crazy Gang to the Conference South next season.

Following Borough's Southern Premier play-off success, ex-Eastleigh man Jamie Brown said there was something of the old Wimbledon in Gosport's fun-loving approach to the game. But even they might struggle to match new divisional rivals Chelmsford City, who have just appointed a real Crazy Gang member to succeed Glenn Pennyfather as Melbourne Park boss.

New in at the Clarets helm is former Newport County and Aldershot Town manager Dean Holdsworth who made nearly 170 appearances for Wimbledon in 1990s and signed again for the Dons in 2003/04 shortly before pitching up as a player at Gosport's neighbours Havant & Waterlooville.

Holdsworth, who has been handed a two-year contract by Chelmsford, said: "My management style is very much based on man-management and creating a feel-good factor inside the dressing room."

### Widd signs Simpemba

IAN Simpemba – one of the chief obstacles blocking Eastleigh's path to the Blue Square Bet South play-off final – has left Dover Athletic and signed for ex-Saint Tommy Widdrington at Eastbourne Borough.

The 30-year-old former Havant & Waterlooville centre-back – a one-time Eastleigh target during Ian Baird's time in charge – turned in a typically powerful performance as Dover skipper as they beat the Spitfires on penalties in the play-off semi-final last month.

Former Salisbury boss Widdrington told the Eastbourne website: "I'm delighted to have agreed to sign Ian Simpemba, most recently the lynchpin in Dover's defence."

"Ian is someone I've admired as a player for some time and I feel he will bring qualities much needed in what is essentially a young squad here at Borough."

"I see his leadership, experience and organisational skills on the pitch as elements I've been looking for, married with a winner's mentality."

## Glasspool pips Bentley to Golden Boot

ZACH Glasspool pipped Warren Bentley to Alresford Town's hotly contested Golden Boot award.

Between them the dynamic duo netted an impressive 73 times in league and cup.

And it was ex-Eastleigh and Winchester City man Glasspool who edged it as top scorer with 37 goals to Bentley's 36.

More than 100 people attended the Magpies' annual presentation night at Arlebury Park, bringing the curtain down on a truly stunning campaign.

The club enjoyed their best ever season, pulling off a unique treble of victories in the Hampshire FA Senior Cup, the Sydenhams Wessex League Cup and the North Hants Senior Cup.

League form was none too shabby either as Alresford handsomely surpassed their previous best finish of 15th by finishing runners-up to Ashley Vickers' league champions Blackfield & Langley.

While Glasspool and Bentley were banging in goals galore at one end of the pitch, goalkeeper Steve Phillips was excelling at the other and deservedly picked up the supporters' player-of-the-year prize in his first season with the club.

Joint team bosses Tim Cole and Danny Robinson named ever-dependable centre-back Lee Wood as



**TOP SCORER:** Alresford Town's Zach Glasspool, centre.

their managers' player-of-the-year, popular local lad Bentley scooped the players' player prize and long-serving club secretary Keith Curtis was honoured with the Chairman's Award

for outstanding service.

Alresford also bade fond farewells to their longest serving first-team squad member, defender Danny Edwards, who has decided to hang up his boots at the

age of 30, and to under-18s coach/manager Kev Coates, who is taking up a full-time role with Southampton FC.

For the under-18s, Scott Hills collected two awards as players' player and

Golden Boot winner, Josh Chandler was voted most improved player, the parents'/supporters' award went to Ben Clarke and the manager's choice was Lewis Bridge.

## POULTON QUILTS 'TOUGHEST JOB IN WESSEX PREMIER

**SYDENHAMS** Wessex Premier outfit Hayling United have suffered a painful double hammer blow.

Not only have they had to launch the hunt for a new manager, but it looks as if they will be relegated to Wessex One because of ground grading issues at their Hayling College home, **writes WENDY GEE.**

After 18 testing months at the Humbugs helm, manager Steve Poulton made the heart-wrenching decision to quit what he believes "has to be the toughest job in the Wessex Premier."

Playing in the Hayling College grounds with little money at their disposal, the Humbugs have done well to remain in the Wessex top flight.

### Double blow for United

But Poulton envisages "another uphill struggle" next term and felt he couldn't devote the time required to make it work.

"We did well to keep the club at the top level in the most difficult circumstances, but now the time is right for someone else to come in and have a go," he said.

Admitting he had walked away with a heavy heart, Poulton added: "It's my local club and I would dearly love to see them succeed."

Little did Poulton know when he uttered those words that more bad news was just around the corner.

The Football Association have instructed the Sydenhams League

to place the Humbugs in a relegation position because they have not achieved Step 5 grading.

It means second-to-bottom Romsey Town (see page 11) are likely to be reprieved at the expense of a side who finished 16th in the table.

Stunned Hayling chairman Ian Gollop described the proposal as "unbelievable."

He said: "They know we don't have a lot of money and each season is a hand-to-mouth existence for us."

"We knew we had to get things done by March 31 and, on the day, there was a team of 11 or 12 of us putting everything in place."

"The rest of the path around the pitch was concreted and we know we have to move the dugouts forward."

"Our temporary fence on the far side of the pitch could be the problem but, because we play in a school, we are limited with what we can do."

John Gorman, the SWL's competition secretary, insisted: "We are not picking on Hayling."

"The FA have done all the ground grading and they got nowhere near it."

"The problem is they can't do everything they want to do because they play at a college ground."

Anyone wishing to take over at the Humbugs helm can email chairman Ian Gollop at [igollop@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:igollop@yahoo.co.uk).



# Non-league Football

## THIRD TIME LUCKY AS HILL FINALLY GETS HIS MAN

**Wendy Gee**

wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk

**NON-LEAGUE REPORTER**

**CONFERENCE South outfit Eastleigh staved off offers from other clubs to capture 21-year-old midfielder Will Evans from Hereford United.**

Evans finished last season on loan at Blue Square Bet Premier side Newport County, helping them gain promotion back into the Football League. Wiltshire-born, he played for Fairford Town and then hometown club Cricklade before signing for Swindon Town and progressing through their centre of excellence.

He signed his first professional contract for the Robins in April 2010 after impressively captaining their youth and reserve sides.

Evans went on to make his professional debut as a substitute in a Johnstone's Paint Trophy victory at St Mary's in August 2010 when goals by Vincent Pericard (2) and Charlie Austin sentenced Saints to a 3-0 Southern Section defeat.

After spending three months on loan at Hereford United, where he made six appearances, he signed permanently for the Bulls in January 2012 on a free transfer. A year later he joined Newport County on a loan deal through to the end of the season. Evans, who was out of contract this summer, leaves Hereford holding a place in club history.

He scored their fastest ever goal in a 2-2 draw at Macclesfield Town on March 6 last year.

With the game just 12 seconds old, he lashed home a spectacular 25-yarder before adding a second from outside the penalty area after 26 minutes.

Just like Eastleigh's first summer signing, Jamie Collins from Forest Green Rovers, Evans fits Spitfires' boss Richard Hill's requirements to a T.

He is 6ft 2in, can play in midfield, central defence or right back and has been on Hill's radar for quite some time.

"I first came across Will when I



**HAT-TRICK OF AWARDS:** Eastleigh's Glen Southam, left.

was involved with Swindon," said Hill.

"He was in the under-16 squad and I've followed his development throughout.

"This is the third time I have tried to sign Will at Eastleigh.

"The first time was on loan from Hereford last November and the second was when he went to Newport on loan.

"Will is a good, young versatile player who will be an integral part of the Eastleigh squad."

Midfielder and skipper Glen Southam bagged three awards at Eastleigh's annual presentation night.

The former Dover man was voted players' player and supporters' player of the season and also picked up the Parker Award.

The night's other main prizes went to - DJ Whittaker (reserve team player), Rob Flooks (reserve team players' player), Brian Palmer (unsung hero), Kevin Dixon (captain's award), Derik Brooks (lifetime achievement award), Craig McAllister/Jai Reason (Golden Boot), Jai Reason (goal-of-the-season, away to Truro City).

### Non-league News

**Cuts force Ash exit**  
**FORMER** Eastleigh midfielder Ashley Nicholls was the first player to leave Conference South club Dorchester Town following the announcement of a budget cut for next season.

Magpies boss Phil Simkin was saddened to lose the services of the 31-year-old, pictured below, who joined the Dorset outfit from fellow Magpies Maidenhead United in 2011.

Nicholls, who made seven appearances for Eastleigh during the 2009/10 season, was a pivotal figure for Dorchester during his two-year stay and Simkin rates him among the best midfielders in the Conference South.

"Ash is a Football League player playing non-League football and he's a very intelligent lad who plays to finance his degree (a PhD in cancer biology).

"He is quality and class and whoever he joins has got a hell of a player.

"We enjoyed working with each other and he always performed well on the pitch, but the financial situation is obviously the reason he has moved on."



**Hawks go with Noakes**  
**ACADEMY** graduate Joe Noakes has signed his first contract for Havant & Waterlooville.

The 18-year-old centre-back has excelled at academy level and is a little unfortunate not to have got a professional breakthrough having worked hard to make the final 11 of the 'Samsung Win A Pro Contract' contest.

The talented teenager comes from good footballing stock with his grandfather having played professionally for Portsmouth.

"Hopefully this represents the first of many promising young players coming through the ranks from the academy and will give all the lads a boost that academy football can lead to greater things," said an H&W spokesman.

"The club would like to welcome Joe and his supportive family and hope this is the launchpad to a long and successful career."



## Clarke signs Salisbury contract

**CONFERENCE** National new boys Salisbury City have signed defender James Clarke on contract for the upcoming season.

Clarke, left, amassed 45 appearances for Darrell Clarke's Whites last term and has already gained top-flight non-League experience with Oxford United.

The 23-year-old, Aylesbury-born six-footer said: "I'm happy to commit

myself to the club for another year.

"I'm looking forward to playing in the Conference Premier again and helping Salisbury kick on.

"I'd like to give massive thanks to the gaffer and Mikey (assistant manager Mikey Harris) for the faith they've shown in me after stepping up a league this season."

Praising the young defender's efforts

since he joined the club last pre-season, Harris said: "Clarkey has worked really hard on his fitness and I believe he will improve even more next year.

"He has pace and strength which are key attributes for the Blue Square Premier.

"He is hungry and displays a winning mentality, which is the sort of player we are after."

**CALL NON-LEAGUE WRITER WENDY GEE ON 023 8042 4483**



# Non-league Football

## Non-league News

**Stow commits to Town**  
EX-SHOLING and Andover midfielder Dean Stow, below, is one of five players to have committed to Evo-Stik Premier Division new boys Hungerford Town next term.

Stow, Matty Day, Harry Goodger, Gary Horgan and Bradley Gray have all put pen to paper for 2013/14 along with new left-sided signing Michael Hopkins from Banbury.

Hungerford finished runners-up to Poole Town in Division One South & West and were promoted via the play-offs.

### Cozzi fits Lions

ANDOVER Lions have appointed Ray Cozzi as manager for next season in the Hampshire Premier League Division One.

Secretary Chris Paris said: "Ray brings a wealth of knowledge of the local football scene and we look forward to working with him."

Former Andover FC and Whitchurch man Cozzi ended last season assisting the now departed Stuart Thomson at Sydenhams One side Stockbridge.

### All change at Town

SYDENHAMS One club Ringwood Town have undergone some changes behind the scenes.

Club stalwart Derek Kirby has been elected president following a further stint as chairman during the 2012/13 campaign.

Replacing him in the chair is Phil King, while Aubrey Hodder will continue his role as football secretary.

Peter Alvis, Lee Cooper and Andy Graves will be responsible for first-team management with pre-season training due to begin on June 25 at Long Lane.

Main prize winners at Ringwood's end-of-season awards were Ryan Osman (manager's player), Charlie Pierson and Tony Rolls (joint players' player) and Alex Roberts (most improved player).



## Wessex football set for Portway Stadium return

THE regeneration of Andover's premier football venue, The Portway Stadium, took a significant step nearer this week when it was confirmed that prospective new leaseholders, Andover/Sparsholt College, had been accepted into the Sydenhams Wessex League.

It paves the way for the college to apply for the necessary grants needed to update the existing fragile floodlight system installed

when the ground – former home of the now defunct Andover FC – opened in 1989, and to move ahead with plans to bring a full-time football academy to Andover this summer.

John Gorman, the SWL competition secretary, confirmed that, subject to ratification at the league's annual general meeting on Tuesday, the new club would be playing in a 17-team Division One as Andover Town FC.

It's a name that has never been used before and one designed to appeal to the supporters of the old Southern League club.

Gorman said: "The college satisfied the Football Association and the Hampshire FA that they could find a suitable ground to stage fixtures in the Wessex League until the Portway was up and running and they have done that. They will play the first two months at the Hants FA ground at Winklebury in

Basingstoke before moving back to Andover.

"They were also told they had to provide a constitution for the new club and form a committee, including a secretary, which they have done."

It is expected that work on the Portway pitch and ground surrounds will begin shortly to bring it up to playing standard for the first time since it was abandoned in 2011.

## BYE TO BAYES

### Keeper leaves Basingstoke for coaching role with League club

**BASINGSTOKE Town's larger than life goalkeeper and club captain Ashley Bayes has parted company with the Conference South outfit by mutual consent.**

He is leaving the Camrose Ground to take up a full-time goalkeeper coaching role with a professional club further up the football ladder.

Bayes, pictured right, explained: "My new role is a full-time post that will prevent me from playing for Basingstoke on Saturdays. The opportunity was too good to turn down. It's all happened very quickly, but it's time for me to move on and take up the new challenge."

The evergreen 41-year-old started out at Brentford and went on to play for Torquay, Exeter, Leyton Orient and League of Ireland side Bohemians before dropping into non-League with Woking.

Spells at Grays, Crawley and Stevenage followed before he signed for Basingstoke in June 2011.

"At my time of life I needed to think about my career beyond playing first-team football and this new job allows me to concentrate on my long-term aims," Bayes explained.

"I leave Basingstoke with a heavy heart. It wasn't an easy decision to make and I would like to thank everybody at the club for being so supportive of me and the team."

"The fans have been fantastic and I can't thank the manager and chairman enough. They've both been out-

standing to me.

"It's not goodbye forever as I hope to be back to coach some of the great young goalkeepers at the club, so I'll be in contact."

First-team boss Jason Bristow is sorry to lose Bayes but understands his reasons for leaving.

"It is the right decision to move onto the next stage of his career," he said.

"Bayzo will go to the very top as a goalkeeper coach, I have no doubt. His energy, enthusiasm, drive, professionalism and desire to succeed is as good as I've seen."

"We will miss everything Bayzo brings to the football club. He is a natural leader and will be very hard to replace. The things people don't see is the real positivity he brings to the changing room and his infectious desire to win."

Meanwhile, Town have agreed a deal to keep ex-Havant & Waterlooville striker Manny Williams at the Camrose, but midfielder Stuart Lake has been released and targetman Tim Sills is likely to follow.

Bristow remains in contact with Sills but says it is "unlikely" the experienced striker will sign on for another season due to his commitments as a teacher in Hertfordshire.

Town will host Reading's under-21s in a pre-season friendly on Saturday, July 13 and travel to Southern Premier new boys Poole Town on Saturday, August 10.



**DANNY BARKER**

## Relieved Barker relishing

DANNY Barker says news of Romsey Town's likely reprieve from relegation will give everyone a lift.

Provided the Sydenhams League's proposed constitution for 2013/14 is passed at Tuesday's AGM, Town – who finished second bottom of the Premier Division – will be spared the drop because Hayling United have failed their ground grading and will almost certainly be relegated in their place.

Hayling's probable demise did not come as a total surprise to Barker who knew the Humbugs had ground issues, but it's a welcome boost all the same.

"We always felt Hayling's ground grading might come into it and that we'd have a slim chance of staying in the Premier," he said.

"We've got our ground grading, which is great, and we were setting ourselves up for either possibility, be it the Wessex

Premier or Division One.

"As long as we're definitely in the Premier, it's great news for us. We feel we'll only improve on the field and we'll now have the opportunity to make sure we stay in year after year in our own right."

"It's a massive positive for us."

With Sholing and the newly-named Winchester City Community Club dropping back down from the Southern

League, competition promises to be even hotter in the Wessex top flight next term.

But Barker welcomes the influx of quality – even though it will make his job all the harder.

"When you look at the set-up of the division now with Sholing and Winchester coming in, I think it's great," he said.

"I know some people have questioned whether it's good or fair that they come



# Non-league Football

# ROMSEY REPRIEVE

## Town set to escape drop after FA ruling

**ROMSEY Town look like being spared relegation from the Sydenhams Premier Division.**

All looked lost for the Bypass Ground club when they finished rock bottom of the Wessex top flight with just 22 points and an horrendous goal difference of minus 99.

But they were pushed up a place when fellow strugglers New Milton Town were deducted three points for failing to fulfil their final fixture at Newport IoW and it now looks as if circumstances have favourably conspired to save Town from the drop, writes **WENDY GEE**.

It was revealed this week that the Football Association have instructed the Sydenhams League to place Hayling United in the second relegation spot instead of Romsey.

The shocked Humbugs thought they were well out of relegation danger having finished 16th, 22 points clear of Romsey, but they are likely to lose their top-tier status because of ground grading issues at their Hayling College home.

To add insult to injury, news of Hayling's probable demotion arrived in the same week as Steve Poulton, their manager for the last 18 months, quit the club.

In a further twist, Alton Town have been advised by the FA that they will be moved out of the Sydenhams League into the Combined Counties League. But it is understood that the Anstey Road outfit – Wessex members for the last 11 seasons – intend to appeal.

Writing on the club website, Alton chairman Jim McKell said: "We have been informed by the FA that we are to be put into the Combined Counties League from this coming season.

"This is not something that we or the Wessex League have sought.

"We have requested, and wait for, a full written explanation from the FA.



**ROMSEY MOVE:** Conor McCarthy, left.

In the meantime we are taking advice and considering our position."

SWL competition secretary John Gorman said that, far from losing teams, the league would like to have welcomed in more.

"It came as a shock to us and Alton that the FA want to move them into the Combined Counties," he said.

"We were looking to bring clubs in, not lose any.

"But the problem is that the Ryman League wants 24 teams in each division, so they didn't just

take the top Combined Counties team, they took the top two, Egham and Guernsey.

"I find that a bit harsh because we've lost clubs galore to the higher league and no one's looked favourably on us.

"Much as I'd like Alton back, it's difficult to know what they can base their grounds for appeal on."

The proposed constitution, due to be presented to the SWL annual general meeting on Tuesday (June 4), features Romsey in a 22-strong Premier Division along with Sholing

## Town sign title winner

ROMSEY Town have added title-winning quality to their defence with the signing of Conor McCarthy from Winchester City.

The powerful centre-back will have a dual role at the club, playing for Danny Barker's first team in the Sydenhams Wessex League and helping to run the under-18 set-up on a Sunday.

McCarthy, son of former Winchester owner Paul, was an integral part of City's Sydenhams Premier title-winning side two seasons ago and got some Southern League expertise under his belt last term.

"With the experience he's got, Conor's a great addition for us," said Romsey boss Barker.

"He can see the vision of the club and what we are trying to achieve.

"With the role he has with the under-18s on a Sunday, he wants to show the lads he's fully committed to Romsey."

Joining McCarthy on the move from Winchester is young

central midfielder Callum Callard.

"When a lot of the seniors moved on from Winchester last season, Callum came in and made a few appearances," said Barker. "We feel he'll be a good prospect for us."

Barker's third signing, Tom Munday, is already a familiar face at the Bypass Ground.

The striker, who has also played for Colden Common and Winchester Castle, recently returned to the country after travelling in Australia and put pen to paper for Romsey earlier this week.

Another trio of signings are expected shortly by which time Town's Premier Division status should have been rubber-stamped at the Sydenhams Wessex AGM.

If, as expected, they remain in the Wessex top flight at Hayling United's expense, Barker believes it can only make it easier to bring quality into the side.

"Staying up will help us

with player targets," he said. "The first question I get asked when I sit down to talk to players is: 'What league are you going to be in?'"

Goalkeeper Brad Snelling, voted players' player-of-the-year for 2012/13, has already committed for next season as have Graham Bird, Matt Headington, Sam McCarthy, Aaron Dunne, Craig Bryant and striker Danny Phillips.

"We've still got players to talk to, but we're pleased with the progress we've made so far," said Barker.

"We're keen to go back to pre-season with a lot of the lads already tied up so that we can focus on the team straight away.

"Everything about the club is more organised this year. We've had youth players introduced in the last couple of months, we've got a new secretary and treasurer, a lot of ground work's been done and we're working on re-seeding the pitch and improving it."

### PROPOSED SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE CONSTITUTION 2013/14 –

**Premier Division:** AFC Portchester, Alesford Town, Bemerton Heath Harlequins, Blackfield & Langley, Bournemouth Poppies, Brockenhurst, Christchurch, Downton, Fareham Town, Fawley AFC, Follands Sports (formerly GE Hamble), Hamworthy Utd, Hordean, Lymington Town, Moneyfields, Newport IoW, Romsey Town, Sholing, Totton & Eling, Verwood Town, Whitchurch Utd, Winchester City Community FC.

**Division One:** Amesbury Town, Andover Town FC, Andover New Street, Cowes Sports, East Cowes Vics, Fleet Spurs, Hayling Utd, Hythe & Dibden, Laverstock & Ford, New Milton Town, Petersfield Town, Pewsey Vale, Ringwood, Stockbridge, Tadley Calvea, Team Solent, US Portsmouth.

# challenge of 'even harder league'

into the Premier, but I welcome it.

"There will be more local derbies and it adds competition, which is great for the area.

"It looks as if the Wessex is getting back to how it was a few years ago when it was really competitive with lots of good sides.

"Our job now is to get everything prepared so that we're in a stronger position for the new season. We need

to learn from last year as we go into what looks like an even harder league!"

Starting from scratch with a young, inexperienced squad last summer was never going to be easy for Barker and his assistant Carl Bennett as they stepped in to replace Wayne Mew.

But the mountain became even harder to climb when, by a quirk of fate, they began the season with successive

games against four of the likely top-six contenders – Bemerton Heath Harlequins, Moneyfields, Christchurch and Downton.

"Hopefully this year our first few games won't be against the title favourites but, knowing our luck, we'll start with Sholing away!" Barker smiled.

Romsey have complied with Step 5 ground grading standards by erecting a

six-foot fence at the bottom end of the Bypass Ground, leaving just the hard standing to complete.

Chairman Ken Jacobs said: "It means a lot to any club to be in the Premier Division. Once you go down, it's a very hard job to get back.

"Every club needs money and you don't get the sponsorship in Division One that you get in the Premier which has more prestige."

Looking back to this time last year, Jacobs said: "I said to Danny that it was going to be a struggle because we were starting a new team and the players he had were nearly all youngsters.

"But this year we've had a lot more enquiries from older players and people wanting to return to the club. They all want to come back to Romsey."

The new youth structure will also stand the club in good stead.

The link-up with Romsey Town Youth FC means the Bypass boys will field five under-18 sides next season – two in the Hampshire Youth League and three in the City of Southampton Youth League.

"There won't be any phoning around seeing where players are. Hopefully we'll have an influx of who to pick," said Jacobs. "I'm really looking forward to it."



# Non-league Football

## Non-league News

### Gong time for Ashmore

PORTSMOUTH manager Guy Whittingham, below, presented the awards to mark the end of a very special season for Gosport Borough.

The Privett Park club will be joining Eastleigh and neighbours Havant & Waterlooville in the Conference South next season after winning promotion from the Southern Premier Division at the first time of asking via the play-offs.

Goalkeeper Nathan Ashmore – who has been invited for a trial at Fratton Park – added the players' player-of-the-season award to the supporters' player trophy he had picked up earlier. Ex-Pompey and AFC

Bournemouth midfielder Sammy Igoe got the sponsors' nod as the outstanding performer of 2012/13, Dan Woodward was voted young player-of-the-year

and assistant manager Mick Catlin received the President's Award.

Team boss Alex Pike, who chose Luke King as manager's player, said: "Guy came along and did all the presentations.

"It's good the Pompey manager spends that sort of time with a club like ours. We really appreciated it.

"Their chairman also invited our chairman for a chat to see if we can forge some more links between the clubs.

"That can only be good for us both going forward and helps build the community ethos around the region."

Goalkeeper Ashmore, who is ambitious to break into the professional ranks, has more than one admirer.

"We have spoken to Guy Whittingham about him, but he is also on Walsall's and Bournemouth's radar," Pike revealed.

"Nathan is ambitious and wants to get into professional football and if Gosport can help him achieve that, we will."

"I have had some very good 'keepers, but I haven't had one as good as he is at his age."

Gosport will visit the Southampton area for their first two pre-season friendlies. They kick off at Sydenhams Premier champions Blackfield & Langley on Saturday, July 13, followed by a trip to Sholing on Friday, July 19.

## New Otters boss goes for experience



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Otterbourne chairman Stuart Monro, left, and John Green, right, receive 50-year recognition on behalf of the club from Southampton FA's Terry Windibank.

OTTERBOURNE have confirmed Richard Luffman as their new manager.

The Otters forward took over as player/boss for the last couple of games of 2012/13, replacing the departed James Banks.

It was an eventful season for the Puma Engineering Hampshire Premier League outfit who celebrated the club's 50th birthday with a gala dinner.

But on the pitch, the side were already struggling prior to Banks's arrival from AFC Stoneham. And, although performances did improve thanks to Banks's efforts, Otterbourne still finished bottom of the Senior Division table.

Luffman is aiming high and has already added several experienced players to the side as he looks to establish the Otters in the top six and put silverware on the table via cup competitions.

He is being supported by assistant manager Steve Harrod and goalkeeper coach Ian Ritchie.

Chairman Stuart Munro said: "As a young, enthusiastic manager, we are pleased to give Richard the opportunity to take the club forward.

"We are also looking to bring in an additional qualified coach to help run training sessions through the season."

The off-the-field committee remains as strong as ever at Oakwood Park and Luffman is appreciative of that.

"When the opportunity came up, I jumped at it," he said. "I

enjoyed being in charge for the last couple of games and it brought home to me just how well organised the club is behind the scenes.

"I will have some decisions to make about whether and how often to play, but my first priority is to add extra quality to the squad."

The Otters are in conversation with a couple of potential sponsors for next season and off-the-field activity will continue through the summer.

Pre-season training starts on Tuesday, June 25 and potential new players are welcome.

Anyone wishing to play for the club or join pre-season training should contact Richard Luffman on 07769 113556 or at [richard.luffman@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:richard.luffman@hotmail.co.uk).

## TOTTON'S PAIN IS KILLICK'S GAIN

### Whisken signs for Dolphins

**POOLE Town have bolstered their squad with the signing of Bournemouth-based centre-back Jamie Whisken from cash-strapped AFC Totton.**

The newly-promoted Southern One South & West champions have seized on the uncertainty surrounding their new Premier Division rivals to bring the big central defender into the fold.

With skipper Michael Walker looking increasingly likely to join his home town club Weymouth, Poole boss Tom Killick sees Whisken, pictured right, as the ideal replacement.

He said: "While it's sad to lose Michael, I believe Jamie will be a very capable replacement.

"He's been consistently playing at the level we're going into and, as an added bonus, he lives and works in Bournemouth where he's a personal trainer at Fitness First.

"He's a big, strong lad with experience and ability."

Having started out as a youngster with AFC Bournemouth, via Littledown Juniors, Whisken played for Farnborough and Basingstoke Town before joining Totton in September 2010.

He played a key role in the Stags' rise to the Southern Premier Division and featured in the side that hosted Bristol Rovers in the FA Cup second round proper two seasons ago.

With Totton having failed to pay their players since the turn of the year, Whisken could be the first of many departures from the Testwood Stadium and Killick will doubtless be one of several managers keeping a close eye on the situation.

"Totton's players have been very successful and I'm sure they all feel sad about what's happened there and it will be a wrench for anyone who ends up leaving," said the Dolphins boss.

But Killick has vowed to be ruthless in the transfer market and take full advantage of Poole's higher league status and financial stability.

Admitting it would be foolhardy not to cast his

eye over his local rivals' squads, he said: "It is a difficult financial climate and you have to try and be ruthless and take advantage if a club is having difficulties.

"You can bet your life there would be plenty of clubs hovering around if we were having difficulty.

"It is biting at most clubs. No one wants to see others in trouble, but you can't afford to be sentimental about it.

"All managers know it is nothing personal. If you see a player you want to sign then you do what you have to do to sign him, it's just what happens.

"I used to take it personally and got bitter with other managers and players for what you perceive as a lack of loyalty. But you have to take it in your stride, stay emotionally detached and realise they will make their own decisions."

Admitting he will be sorry to lose towering defender Walker, Killick said: "He's been exceptional for us, a real inspirational captain and figurehead of the playing side.

"He's been instrumental in the success we've had but, financially, it (moving to Weymouth) is something he can't afford to turn down.

"We're indebted to him for what he's done, but I understand and respect his decision and I appreciate he's dealt with it in the right way."

Adam Kelly has definitely left Poole to join his local team Tiverton Town.

The former Winchester City and Salisbury City midfielder was finding the travelling increasingly tough.

"Adam served us really well last year, but it was always going to be difficult for him long-term and it makes sense for him to join a club closer to home," said Killick.

"It was too far for him to come to training and he was just coming to games."

Two key men, winger Carl Preston and defender Will Spetch, have signed new Poole contracts and Killick has been talking to defender Rhys Bagbridge – a former Dolphins loanee – following his release from Salisbury City.



**TURN TO BACK PAGE FOR MORE NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL**



# Non-league Football

## Sunday best: Title success for AFC Southampton

AFC SOUTHAMPTON have completed another memorable season as winners of the City of Southampton Sunday League Junior Division Two.

Contrary to the *Sports Pink* (sorry lads!) – and even the league's official website – placing Sherfield English top of the pile, Southampton actually clinched the title by a point from their closest rivals, having won 13 and drawn one of their 16 league games.

When Darren Smith stepped in as chairman in the 2011/12 season, he immediately set about revamping the squad and brought in Alex Thistle as manager.

The upwardly mobile AFC Southampton boys, pictured, have subsequently achieved back-to-back promotions to Junior One, having originally started out in Junior Six.

Master marksman Matt McKenzie fired them to glory as the team's top scorer with 17 goals and manag-



er Thistle paid special tribute to the ever-dependable Josh Rudd, describing him as "our rock".

Thistle also thanked

sponsors Pakton Property Services for all their help and support.

AFC Southampton's title-winning squad was: Andy

Riddell, Alex Thistle, Lewis Hunt, Nattiel Lynch, Josh Rudd, Matt McKenzie, Daniel Whitnall, Darren Smith,

Thom King, Carl Clark, Mark Arrowsmith, Ben Patfield, Conor Chapman, Lee Ryves, David Greenwood, Dennis Jack.

# CHANGE OF PACE ...

## Club to launch U16 side as a result of AFC Totton upheaval

**PACE FC are making the step into under-16 youth football as a result of the turmoil engulfing AFC Totton.**

For the last two years Pace, an FA Charter Standard Development club catering for 250-300 youngsters in the Totton area, have been filtering their under-15s through to their Evo-Stik Southern League neighbours, **writes WENDY GEE.**

Pace chairman Simon Randell and Mark Stupple have successfully moved their under-15s across to AFC Totton over the last two years.

But under new plans proposed for 2013/14, Totton will also welcome in Oakwood Terriers under-15s and plan to run with two under-16 sides next term.

Those plans could change now that Calvin Caunter has resigned as Totton's vice-chairman and the consortium formed to rescue the cash-strapped club appears to have collapsed.

But Rob Lomax, manager of last season's Pace Panthers under-15s, is so disenchanted with recent upheavals at the Testwood Stadium that he intends to stick with Pace and launch an under-16 side into the City of Southampton Youth League for the first time.

"I was happy to flow into Totton as a single side, but I was told I'd be in for a year and then the coaches from Oakwood would carry it on," he said.

"Shawn Kitcher, who's got a good Pace under-14s side, would have been the next to follow me into Totton, but they've told him they would take his team but not him," Lomax claimed.

"Kitch and me have decided it's not for us and we'd rather stay at Pace and build our own under-16 team and hopefully take it forward into under-18s.

"There are things I'm not comfortable with at Totton and, if it's only for a year in any case, why do it?"

"Things may change at Totton if a new consortium comes in, but no matter who goes in there, it's going to take a while to sort things out.

"Personally, I'd rather cut my losses and build again with Pace rather than get caught up in all the politics."

Unfortunately for Lomax, several of his highly successful Southampton Tyro League side have

already moved on.

"All this uncertainty has unsettled my team and driven a wedge through it," he said.

"I've lost 50 per cent of the squad because parents felt there was no security at Totton and took the lads off to Eastleigh where the club's more settled and they can see there's a natural progression.

"But I've no concerns about getting a side together to compete and the Pace committee are fully behind me. As long as we've got the nucleus, we can build from there.

"But it means we've got to start from scratch and we need new sponsors for kit, tracksuits etc as this was going to be supplied by AFC Totton."

Ben Hillman, Lomax's assistant for the last five years, has stepped down, but there is expert help at hand.

Danny Ackland, who has coached with AFC Bournemouth's Academy and headed up AFC Totton's player development programme, is coming in as coach and helping to rebuild the Panthers.

"There's no point holding trials until clubs like Sholing, and Eastleigh have held theirs," said Lomax. "But if there are people interested in joining Pace under-16s or would like to sponsor us, give me a shout (07876 776985).

### Stags' youth set-up 'running 100 per cent fine'

AFC TOTTON are at pains to stress that the recent uncertainty surrounding the cash-strapped Southern Premier club has had no ill effects on the youth set-up.

Under-16 trials were held this week and Luke Newman, head of youth at the Testwood Stadium, says the Stags' commitment to player development is as

strong as ever.

"We've built a decent reputation as a youth set-up and we want people to realise that, whatever else is happening at the club, the youth set-up is the same," he said.

"We've had the two best FA Youth Cup runs in the area over the last couple of seasons and we've created lots of players for the first team

like Luke Roberts,

Ross Casey etc. "We're as good as we ever were – in fact we're stronger – and we'll continue to create and develop players.

"We've got a better coaching base and a better platform for players to develop.

"Everything's running 100 per cent fine and the youth section is running as smoothly as ever."

### PRE-SEASON FRIENDLIES 2013

**Saturday, July 6**

Blackfield & Langley v East Cowes Vics, Hartley Wintney v Alesford Town, Warminster v Bournemouth Poppies, Wimborne Town v AFC Bournemouth.

**Monday, July 8**

Blackfield & Langley v AFC Totton.

**Tuesday, July 9**

AFC Stoneham v Fareham Town, Christchurch v AFC Bournemouth, Sholing v SAINTS Under-21s.

**Thursday, July 11**

Laverstock & Ford v Shrewton, Moneyfields Res v Hythe & Dibden, US Portsmouth v Winchester City.

**Friday, July 12**

Stockbridge v Winchester City.

**Saturday, July 13**

Basingstoke Town v Reading Under-21s, Blackfield & Langley v Gosport Borough, Chichester City v Bournemouth Poppies, Hythe & Dibden v Alesford Town, Laverstock & Ford v Whitchurch, QK Southampton v Fareham Town, Verwood Town v Fleet Town.

**Tuesday, July 16**

Blackfield & Langley v Fleet Town, Gillingham Town v Verwood Town, Hamworthy Rec v Bournemouth Poppies (6.30), Lymington Town v Hythe & Dibden, QK Southampton v Alesford Town.

**Wednesday, July 17**

Hamworthy Utd v Wimborne Town.

**Thursday, July 18**

Team Solent v Fareham Town (7.15).

**Friday, July 19**

Sholing v Gosport Borough.

**Saturday, July 20**

Buckland Athletic v Bournemouth Poppies, East Cowes Vics v Winchester City, Frimley Green v Alesford Town, Hythe & Dibden v Michelmersh & Tims, Laverstock & Ford v Woking & Eling, Wimborne Town v Blackfield & Langley, Wotton v AFC Bournemouth.

**Monday, July 22**

Team Solent v Whitchurch Utd.

**Tuesday, July 23**

Blackfield & Langley v Bashley, Fareham Town v Havant & Waterlooville, Hamworthy Rec v Verwood Town, Hythe & Dibden v Bemerton HH, Ludgershall v Amesbury Town (7.15), Fleet Town v Gosport Borough, Ringwood Town v Alesford Town, Selsey v Romsey Town, Wimborne Town v AFC Bournemouth Youth.

**Thursday, July 25**

Merley CS v Bournemouth Poppies, Team Solent v Cadnam Utd.

**Saturday, July 27**

Badshot Lea v Alesford Town, Bemerton HH v Wimborne Town, Blackfield & Langley v Eastleigh, Hedge End Rangers v Hythe & Dibden, Laverstock & Ford v Poole Borough, Redditch Utd v Gosport Borough, Selsey v Bournemouth Poppies, Trowbridge v Amesbury Town, Wick v Fareham Town.

**Monday, July 29**

Team Solent v GE Hamble.

**Tuesday, July 30**

Arundel v Romsey Town, Christchurch v Poole Town, Fareham Town v Chichester City, Gosport Borough v Portsmouth, Winchester Castle v Alesford Town.

**Wednesday, July 31**

AFC Stoneham v Amesbury Town, Verwood Town v BDFA Rep Side.

**Thursday, August 1**

Poole Borough v Bournemouth Poppies (6.30), Team Solent v Winchester City.

**Friday, August 2**

Wimborne Town v Poole Town.

**Saturday, August 3**

Gillingham v Poole Town, Frome Town v Gosport Borough, Westbury Utd v Amesbury Town.

**Monday, August 5**

Gosport Borough v Bognor Regis.

**Tuesday, August 6**

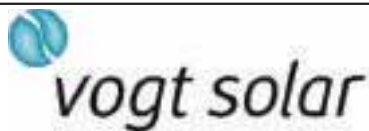
Hythe & Dibden v Eastleigh Res, Wimborne Town v Bridport.

**Saturday, August 10**

Bashley v Wimborne Town, Gosport Borough v Weymouth, Poole Town v Basingstoke Town.

● To publicise your club's pre-season friendlies, email the sports desk at [echosport@dailyecho.co.uk](mailto:echosport@dailyecho.co.uk).





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08 July : Gardens of Cornwall 5 day.....	£329
08 July : Norwich and Sandringham 5 day.....	£359
08 July : Summer Cabaret Break 5 day.....	£189
11 July : Kew Gardens & Hampton Court Flower Show 2 day.....	£159
12 July : Coronation Festival Buckingham Palace 2 day .....	£139
13 July : Newquay 8 day .....	£479
14 July : Fort William and Skye 8 day.....	£599
14 July : Flavours of Kent 6 day .....	£439
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15 July : Folkestone & Brugge 5 day.....	£299
15 July : Yorkshire Railway Journeys 5 day .....	£376
15 July : Ostend & Brugge 5 day .....	£314
17 July : Puy du Fou & Brittany 5 day .....	£509
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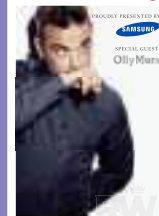
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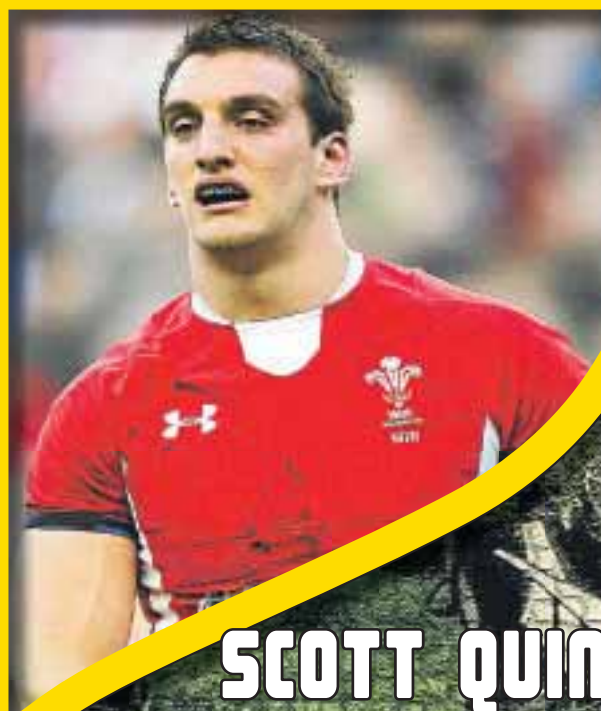
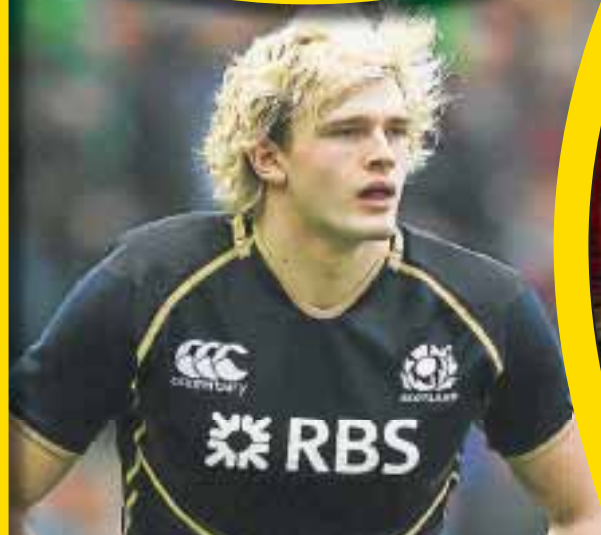
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The Kiwi coaching master leading the Lions against the common enemy



# Wales, England, Ireland, Scotland ... and Gatland

IT says everything about Warren Gatland's rugby pedigree that his appointment as head coach of the 2013 British and Irish Lions was a no-brainer.

The most coveted coaching job in northern hemisphere rugby unquestionably became Gatland's property once he masterminded Wales' second Six Nations title and Grand Slam success of his five-year reign last March.

It was the continuation of a coaching career laden with silverware.

Having transformed Wasps from Premiership strugglers into three-time English champions and Heineken Cup winners, Gatland's Wales appointment in late 2007 proved a prelude to Six Nations success and a 2011 World Cup semi-final place.

Not since 1987 had Wales reached the last four on a global stage, and it should have been even better, given that they played most of their semi-final against France with 14 men after skipper Sam Warburton was sent off and still only lost by one point.

During his time with Wales, New Zealander Gatland has not only instilled a consistent winning mentality, but also transformed training methods at state-of-the-art Welsh Rugby Union facilities in the Vale of Glamorgan. But he is also the first to admit how

unique and testing the Lions challenge is, especially given the short preparation time a packed domestic fixture calendar dictates.

But it will be a no-excuses environment – that is how Gatland operates – as he targets a Test series victory against Australia that would be the Lions' first over any opposition since the 1997 triumph in South Africa.

"We are going down there to play rugby," Gatland said, during the build-up to a first Lions tour in Australia since 2001. "We're going to Australia to move the ball and to score points and tries. I can guarantee there is going to be some very positive play from the Lions while we are there."

"The Lions is the envy of world rugby. It's one of the old traditional touring teams."

"To get a squad together, travel away for a number of weeks and play 10 games is something the southern hemisphere teams don't get the opportunity to do any more. It's great for the game with the interest it creates, the money it generates, the touring fans and the atmosphere we're going to get at the games."

"It's massively challenging for us, but it's a concept that we need to protect. It's hopefully going to be one hell of a tour."

Gatland's 37-man squad comprises 15 Welshmen, 10 English, nine Irish and three

## Lions tour dates 2013



Sat	1 Jun	12.30pm	Barbarians	Hong Kong
Wed	5 Jun	11am	Western Force	Perth
Sat	8 Jun	10.30am	Queensland Reds	Brisbane
Tue	11 Jun	10.30am	NSW-Old Country	Newcastle
Sat	15 Jun	10.30am	NSW Waratahs	Sydney
Tue	18 Jun	10.30am	ACT Brumbies	Canberra
<b>Sat</b>	<b>22 Jun</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>Brisbane</b>
Tue	25 Jun	10.30am	Melbourne Rebels	Melbourne
<b>Sat</b>	<b>29 Jun</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>Melbourne</b>
<b>Sat</b>	<b>6 Jul</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>Sydney</b>



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Scots. It was a selection of few shocks, although domestic finals meant the entire group would not assemble until the day before the Lions flew to Hong Kong for an opening tour fixture against the Barbarians.

"The difficulty of a Lions tour is that you are bringing the players from four nations together with

limited preparation, and you are playing away from home against one of the top three countries in the world," added Gatland.

"If you picked a team from Australia, New Zealand and South Africa and brought them together for a few days and then went to the northern hemisphere, there is no guarantee that they would be better than

the All Blacks, Springboks or Wallabies as individual teams."

"We will guarantee everyone a start in the first three tour games. That will give players the chance to put themselves in the shop window before the Test series. After that, we're going to have to make some pretty tough decisions. A lot of our game plan and

“

I am not going to be too hung up on whether we drop a game or two on the way to the Test series. It's all about making sure we arrive at the first Test thoroughly prepared

”

structures and players getting to know calls is going to have to be done on tour.

"It's going to take us two or three weeks to do that, so I am not going to be too hung up on whether we drop a game or two on the way to the Test series."

"It's all about making sure we arrive at the first Test thoroughly prepared, having trained hard and having made sure we're ready to go in Brisbane on June 22."

"At the end of the day, it's not about the provincial games or the Super Rugby games, it's about winning the Test series. That is the most important challenge for us."



# SCOTT QUINNELL



EXCLUSIVE VERDICT FROM THE FORMER WALES AND LIONS STAR AND SKY SPORTS PUNDIT

## These Lions will beat my record!

SELECTION for the British and Irish Lions is the pinnacle of any player's career, and I cannot wait for this tour of Australia to start.

I was part of the last Lions party to tour Australia in 2001, and I am looking forward to seeing more of the country this time round - we didn't have much time moving between training and hotels last time. Although, I remember one visit to a zoo where Dafydd James thought he was going to get eaten by a snake!

When I look back, I still find it hard to believe we lost that Test series. We battered Australia for three halves of rugby, and then we decided at half-time in the second Test to look to play with a bit more width.

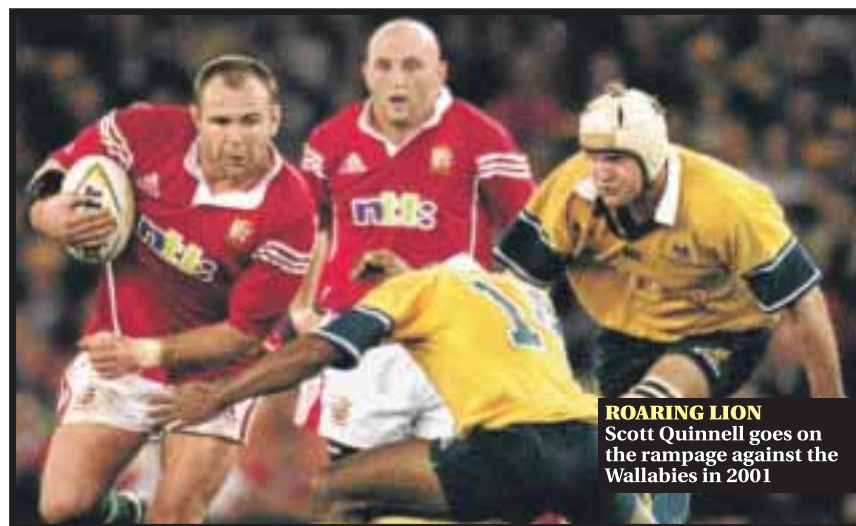
Everyone knows what happened next - Joe Roff intercepted a wide pass to score and they ran away with the game, while we also suffered key injuries to Richard Hill and Rob Howley and it changed the course of the series.

It's the same when I look at the second Test in South Africa in 2009. I still watch that game convinced the Lions are going to win but, as we know, it was not to be.

But I am confident this Lions team can secure a first series win since 1997.

They have a wonderful squad and, in Sam Warburton, they have the right man to lead them and everyone needs to get behind him.

He has a close relationship with Warren Gatland and has shown tremendous humility. I am not sure I could have been as calm as he was after his sending off in the 2011 World Cup semi-final. He says the right things, and is



**ROARING LION**  
Scott Quinnell goes on the rampage against the Wallabies in 2001

a fine leader and a true gentleman.

Waburton is joined by 14 other Welshmen, and I think the make-up of the squad is a fair reflection of British and Irish rugby in recent years. Wales have won four Six Nations titles in the last nine seasons, including the last two, and it is hard to argue with a record like that.

Elsewhere, there has been much discussion about Jonny Wilkinson and his

decision to turn down the chance to tour. Personally, I think it reflects Jonny's respect for the Lions.

I think he is concerned his body cannot take it and, after watching him play as Toulon won a brutal Heineken Cup final, I can understand why. It is not a case of whether he will regret it, it is more that he doesn't think he can do it.

However, I am sure if Jonny is required later in the

tour and he goes out to Australia, he will deliver.

The Wallabies have not been without their issues in the fly-half department either, having left Quade Cooper out of their initial squad for the Lions series.

But I would fully expect the Queensland Reds playmaker to be added to the Australian squad after the Lions play the Super 15 side in their third tour game. He can be a very

difficult player to read, he has been playing very well for the Reds and he has an excellent understanding with Reds and Australia scrum-half Will Genia.

Australia will look to play the ball away from the ruck and move the Lions around, while the tourists have a very physical squad and will be more direct.

Whoever can dictate the terms of play will have a big advantage and will give their opponents a real headache in what should be an intriguing tactical battle.

As with any Test match or series, it all starts up front with the forwards.

The Lions will look to be strong at the scrum, at the driving line-out and win the collisions in and around the key breakdown area.

A bit like Toulon in the Heineken Cup final, they will look to grind their opponents down. It may not prove to be pretty, but no-one in Britain and Ireland will care too much if the Lions win the series.

And I do expect the Lions to win the series, 2-1. I would not even rule out a 3-0 win, and it would be great if the Lions could win the first two Tests and then we could spend that final

week talking about a possible whitewash.

If it is 1-1 after the first two Tests then we will be in for an incredibly tense week and a cracker of a match.

But even though I think the Lions will win the series, you can never write off Australia. We say how big a Lions tour is in Britain and Ireland every four years, can you imagine how big it is for New Zealand, South Africa and Australia who get to host the Lions once every 12 years?

It is a massive occasion for them, as Australia showed in 2001 by pulling out all the stops when they went 1-0 down, putting yellow covers on the seats in Melbourne and Sydney to try to drown out the red of the Lions fans.

They are incredible fighters and never give up.

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2013: Tom (left) and Ben Youngs

### FOCUS Family affair

SCOTT QUINNELL followed father Derek into the Lions, and there are more family connections in this year's squad.

Derek Quinnell famously made the 1971 Lions squad before he had been capped by Wales and went on to tour again in 1977 and 1980. All three of his sons, Scott, Craig and Gavin played top-flight rugby, although only Scott played for the Lions.

This time, brothers Tom and Ben Youngs become the 14th set of brothers to be picked by the Lions, going one better than dad Nick, who played six times for England but not the Lions. The Youngs brothers - Tom a hooker and Ben a scrum-half like his father - followed brothers such as English wings Rory and Tony Underwood and Scottish greats Gavin and Scott Hastings into the Lions record books.



1993: Tony Underwood, Scott Hastings, Rory Underwood and Gavin Hastings



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# Gatland is the man to overturn history



## MANE MEN

Warren Gatland and Sam Warburton's record with Wales made them the obvious choices to lead the Lions party

Kiwi can deliver first series win for 16 years

By **Andrew Baldock**

THE British and Irish Lions head to Australia knowing that a Test series triumph is non-negotiable.

It is 16 years since the Lions won a series, an against-all-odds success against then world champions South Africa when England centre Jeremy Guscott's drop-goal gave the tourists victory in Durban and secured an unassailable 2-0 advantage.

But three subsequent tours to Australia (2001), New Zealand (2005) and South Africa (2009) produced a total of seven defeats and only two wins, which has cranked up the pressure on the current Lions squad coached by Warren Gatland.

The New Zealander's appointment was an obvious call, given his success with Wales of two Six Nations titles, including a Grand Slam, as well as guiding them to a first World Cup semi-final appearance for 24 years in the 2011 tournament.

But 49-year-old Gatland will require all his tried and tested skills during a quest for what no Lions chief has accomplished since Ian McGeechan in 1997 – toppling one of the southern hemisphere heavyweights.

If Gatland achieves it, he will deserve every accolade, as would tour skipper Sam Warburton, the first Welsh Lions skipper for 36 years and fifth-youngest Lions leader of all time.

It all starts against the Barbarians in Hong Kong, before five games on Australian soil act as a prelude to the first Test at Brisbane's Suncorp Stadium on June 22.

Gatland has effectively less than a month with his full 37-man squad to identify, prepare and deliver a team good enough to topple the Wallabies in their own back yards of Brisbane

## FOCUS Three key battles in the Test series



### WILL GENIA v MIKE PHILLIPS

Genia is Australia's most dangerous player. The Queensland scrum-half has great vision, a sharp pass, a lethal running game and strong defence. He is the complete package, and a different style of player to the tall and powerful Phillips, who offers a physical presence behind his pack and enjoys carrying the ball much like a fourth back-row forward.



### MICHAEL HOOPER v SAM WARBURTON

Warren Gatland made it clear from the moment he got the job that the Lions needed a natural openside to counter the Wallabies, who thrive on quick ball. Australia have lost David Pocock and George Smith to injury but Hooper ran England ragged in November. Warburton can match him at the breakdown.



### BENN ROBINSON v ADAM JONES

Australia do not have great scrummaging depth, but in props Robinson and Ben Alexander they have two top-class operators. Robinson is a strong ball-carrier too, but it is his duel with tighthead Jones which will be key as the Lions look to attack the Wallaby set-piece. Jones was at his best in Wales' Six Nations victories over Italy, Scotland and England.







**OLD MASTER**  
Jonny Wilkinson turned down the chance to go on his third Lions tour – but could still be called up as injury cover

## The elephant in the room: the star who isn't on tour.. yet

JONNY WILKINSON is ready, willing and hopefully able to be called up by the Lions if needed.

The injury-prone former England fly-half has been in fine form with European champions Toulon this season, but declined an initial approach from Lions head coach Warren Gatland, citing club commitments and his weary body.

Yet Wilkinson remains on standby should he be required with just two No.10s in the 37-man squad, Ireland's Jonathan Sexton and England's Owen Farrell.

Gatland was visibly exasperated by repeated questions about Wilkinson in the build-up to the tour, but former Lions star Gavin Hastings believes the 33-year-old will be called up in time for the first Test in Brisbane on June 22.

"I think it's likely to happen," said Hastings. "If Sexton and Farrell can do well and they play well and they are able to keep fit, perhaps the prospect of Jonny coming out will recede."

"The shorter the time that Jonny has in Australia, the better, I think, the chances are for the Lions."

"The longer he spends there, I'm not convinced his body will want to be training every single day."

"The way he is, so intense and thorough in his preparation, he doesn't need to play in any provincial matches."

"What matters is the Lions winning two out of three Tests. If ever there was an occasion made for Jonny, it would be coming out the week before the first Test and having a role to play."

Melbourne and Sydney. The packed British and Irish fixture calendar, culminating in European finals and domestic play-offs, meant Gatland's squad was only at two thirds' capacity for pre-tour training weeks in Wales and Ireland, with a dozen players from Leicester and Leinster among the absent.

It was a case of handling the cards they were dealt, yet there is sufficient quality in Gatland's group to pose Australia problems.

There were few quibbles about the initial squad selection, although England captain Chris Robshaw was desperately unlucky to miss out, with Gatland opting for 15 Welshmen, 10 English, nine Irish and three Scots.

Wales' dominance reflected a second successive Six Nations title triumph, which they sealed in spectacular fashion through a record 30-3 victory over England, and

Gatland's close working relationship with Warburton made him the clear captaincy favourite.

Crucial to the Lions' prospects Down Under, though, will be an enticing and exciting blend of youth and experience.

Much will rightly be expected of young guns like Wales trio Leigh Halfpenny, George North and Justin Tipuric, England's Manu Tuilagi and Owen Farrell, flying Scottish back Stuart

Hogg and Ireland prop Cian Healy. But the glue that promises to hold everything together – players such as Brian O'Driscoll, Mike Phillips, Adam Jones and Paul O'Connell – could ultimately underpin an immovable Lions structure.

The five games in Australia before the opening Test include appointments with Super Rugby sides Western Force, Queensland Reds, New South Wales Waratahs and ACT

Brumbies, during which time Gatland will formulate his first Test XV.

Twelve years ago, when the Lions last toured Australia, Brian O'Driscoll inspired a stunning opening Test triumph in Brisbane, but the Wallabies levelled the series seven days later before taking the decider 29-23.

Australia could also prove something of a psychological barrier for the Welsh players on tour, given their run of eight successive wins in the fixture, including four during a five-month period last year.

But Gatland's record at the top level, his attention to detail, his sustained ability to make the right selection calls and forensic analysis of opposition teams makes him the Lions' trump card.

And it is why they should arrive back in Britain as Wallaby tamers and Lions heroes.

# How Aussies grew into a world force

By **Duncan Bech**

THE first time the British and Irish Lions staged a dedicated tour to Australia that had not been combined with an itinerary in New Zealand was in 1899 – and it would take 90 years for them to embark on a similar schedule.

The tour was notable for the fact that its captain, Rev Matthew Mullineux, had never played for his country before. The English clergyman also dropped himself after the first Test, a 13-3 defeat in Sydney.

That selfless act reaped dividends as the Lions went on to win the remaining three Tests, but the brilliance of the first Welshman to be capped by the elite of British and Irish rugby was also critical.

Gwyn Nicholls of Cardiff finished as the top try-scorer on the 21-match trip with 10 scores, and he dazzled defences time and time again.

Australia were traditionally not deemed strong enough to warrant a dedicated, standalone visit, but a significant shift came with their Grand Slam tour of 1984.

Future Wallaby greats David Campese, Michael Lynagh and Nick Farr-Jones came to the fore as England, Ireland, Wales and Scotland were dispatched.

It indicated that Australia were once more a force to be reckoned with, and five years later they hosted a three-Test series which, while ending in victory for the Lions, was notable for some nerve-shredding and brutal rugby.

A distinction that Finlay Calder's class of 1989 shared with its predecessor was that the Lions came back to win the series after losing the opening match for only the second – and last – time.

Sydney was the setting for a handsome 30-12 win by the Wallabies, who

dominated up front to inflict the only defeat on the Lions in their 12 matches Down Under that summer.

Changes were made for the second Test with Wade Dooley, Mike Teague, Rob Andrew, Jeremy Guscott and Scott Hastings drafted in for a fractious game marred by an enormous fight.

Tries from Gavin Hastings and Guscott helped them to a 19-12 victory in Brisbane with England back-row man Teague inspirational.

The Sydney decider was edged 19-18 by the Lions, who capitalised on a horrifying blunder from Campese that handed Wales wing Ieuan Evans an important try.

Revenge arrived 12 years later for the Wallabies as they came back from a 29-13 loss in Brisbane in the opening Test to take the series 2-1. It was the first time the Lions had been coached by someone from outside Britain and Ireland with New Zealander Graham Henry, Wales coach at the time, taking charge.

The first Test supplied one of the greatest Lions memories when Brian O'Driscoll scored a stunning try, while uncapped English wing Jason Robinson scored three inutes into his debut.

A critical moment arrived in the second Test when Wallaby centre Nathan Grey elbowed Richard Hill in the head, inflicting an injury that ruled the brilliant flanker out of the tour.

Until that point Martin Johnson's side were leading, but it proved to be the pivotal moment of the game and series as Joe Roff scored two tries in a 35-14 win for the home side.

The final match was lost 29-23 after being tied 23-23 going into a final 10 minutes memorable for the Lions losing a crucial line-out.



Jason Robinson gave the Lions a great start in 2001

James

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# THE 37 MEN CARRYING BRITISH

**LEIGH HALFPENNY**  
Cardiff Blues  
Full-back



Age: 24  
Caps: 44  
Test pts: 294



**ALEX CUTHBERT**  
Cardiff Blues  
Wing



Age: 23  
Caps: 18  
Test pts: 45



**BRIAN O'DRISCOLL**  
Leinster  
Centre



Age: 34  
Caps: 125  
Test pts: 245



**JONATHAN SEXTON**  
Leinster  
Fly-half



Age: 27  
Caps: 36  
Test pts: 282



**MIKE PHILLIPS**  
Bayonne  
Scrum-half



Age: 30  
Caps: 77  
Test pts: 40



**DAN COLE**  
Leicester  
Prop



Age: 25  
Caps: 40  
Test pts: 5



**STUART HOGG**  
Glasgow Warriors  
Full-back



Age: 20  
Caps: 15  
Test pts: 15



**SEAN MAITLAND**  
Glasgow Warriors  
Wing



Age: 24  
Caps: 5  
Test pts: 5



**JAMIE ROBERTS**  
Cardiff Blues  
Centre



Age: 26  
Caps: 53  
Test pts: 25



**SAM WARBURTON**  
Captain, Cardiff Blues  
Flanker



Age: 24  
Caps: 38  
Test pts: 10



# Lions: kings of the rugby jungle

**ROB KEARNEY**  
Leinster  
Full-back



Age: 27  
Caps: 46  
Test pts: 37



**GEORGE NORTH**  
Scarlets  
Wing



Age: 21  
Caps: 31  
Test pts: 60



**MANU TUILAGI**  
Leicester  
Centre



Age: 21  
Caps: 21  
Test pts: 50



**TOMMY BOWE**  
Ulster  
Wing



Age: 29  
Caps: 51  
Test pts: 130



**JONATHAN DAVIES**  
Scarlets  
Centre



Age: 25  
Caps: 36  
Test pts: 45



**OWEN FARRELL**  
Saracens  
Fly-half



Age: 21  
Caps: 16  
Test pts: 154



**CONOR MURRAY**  
Munster  
Scrum-half



Age: 24  
Caps: 19  
Test pts: 5



**BEN YOUNGS**  
Leicester  
Scrum-half



Age: 23  
Caps: 33  
Test pts: 30



**CIAN HEALY**  
Leinster  
Prop



Age: 25  
Caps: 39  
Test pts: 10



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# AND IRISH HOPEES IN AUSTRALIA

**GETHIN JENKINS**  
Toulon  
Prop



Age: 32  
Caps: 98  
Test pts: 20



**MATT STEVENS**  
Saracens  
Prop



Age: 30  
Caps: 44  
Test pts: 0



**RORY BEST**  
Ulster  
Hooker



Age: 30  
Caps: 67  
Test pts: 0



**TOM YOUNGS**  
Leicester  
Hooker



Age: 26  
Caps: 9  
Test pts: 0



**PAUL O'CONNELL**  
Munster  
Second row



Age: 33  
Caps: 85  
Test pts: 30



**SEAN O'BRIEN**  
Leinster  
Flanker



Age: 26  
Caps: 27  
Test pts: 10





**IAN EVANS**  
Ospreys  
Second row



Age: 28  
Caps: 30  
Test pts: 5



**GEOFF PARLING**  
Leicester  
Second row



Age: 29  
Caps: 17  
Test pts: 5



**JUSTIN TIPURIC**  
Ospreys  
Flanker



Age: 23  
Caps: 15  
Test pts: 0



**RICHIE GRAY**  
Sale Sharks  
Second row



Age: 23  
Caps: 31  
Test pts: 5



**TOM CROFT**  
Leicester  
Flanker



Age: 27  
Caps: 38  
Test pts: 20



**TOBY FALETAU**  
Newport Gwent Dragons  
No.8



Age: 22  
Caps: 26  
Test pts: 10



**ADAM JONES**  
Ospreys  
Prop



Age: 32  
Caps: 88  
Test pts: 10



**MAKO VUNIPOLA**  
Saracens  
Prop



Age: 22  
Caps: 9  
Test pts: 0



**RICHARD HIBBARD**  
Ospreys  
Hooker



Age: 29  
Caps: 23  
Test pts: 5



**ALUN WYN JONES**  
Ospreys  
Second row



Age: 27  
Caps: 70  
Test pts: 35



**DAN LYDIATE**  
Newport Gwent Dragons  
Flanker



Age: 25  
Caps: 27  
Test pts: 0



**JAMIE HEASLIP**  
Leinster  
No.8



Age: 29  
Caps: 57  
Test pts: 40





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# The young master

Wales skipper Warburton becomes youngest Lions captain for 58 years

By **Duncan Bech**

THERE can be few more remarkable 24-year-olds than Sam Warburton, the British and Irish Lions captain who is taking to the post with the same quiet authority that has marked his reign as Wales skipper.

Even before the tour to Hong Kong and Australia departed, any doubts over Warburton's age – he is the youngest player to lead the Lions for 58 years – were already fading away.

His predecessor as Lions captain Paul O'Connell has described him as "wise beyond his years", and admitted that he would have been too naive for the post at the same age.

Forwards coach Graham Rowntree has also been "very impressed" by the way he has gone about his duties, justifying the decision of Warren Gatland to choose him ahead of the more experienced O'Connell and Brian O'Driscoll.

Warburton is held in high regard by everyone around him, yet even as captain he refuses to accept preferential treatment when it comes to selection.

"You don't want to become complacent and think you have got a starting place in the team," he said. "I like it when you go

“

I like it when you go into the team announcements and you are on the edge not knowing if you are going to get picked

”

into the team announcements and you are on the edge not knowing if you are going to get picked.

"Knowing you might not be involved is what keeps you going in training, and keeps you dedicated off the pitch as well.

"What Warren has emphasised is that he feels he has a squad where everyone can compete for a Test starting XV place, and that's the best way to be, so everyone is on edge in training."

Warburton has insisted that captaincy is not about "ruling with an iron fist" and intends to lean heavily on the senior Welshman in the squad and on O'Driscoll and O'Connell, who led the 2005 and 2009 tours respectively.

"With Wales we have a leadership team of five or six players – guys like Alun Wyn Jones, Jamie Roberts, Adam Jones, Gethin Jenkins, Mike Phillips – who are very influential when you are on the pitch," he said. "Fortunately, for me, those guys are involved this time around with the Lions, and experienced guys from the other nations as well will have a similar input.

"As soon as we get together, a core leadership group will influence the way the tour goes, and Brian and Paul will have a massive part to play. It would be very silly of



## Fame academy

**SAM WARBURTON'S** appointment was another golden moment for Whitchurch High School in Cardiff.

It came as his former classmate, Spurs and Wales soccer star Gareth Bale (below), swept the board this season as PFA Player of the Year and Young Player of the Year as well as the football writers' Footballer of the Year.

And Whitchurch's golden generation did not stop there – Bradford and Wales rugby league international Elliot Kear was another member of the same class.

And a couple of years ahead of them at the same school was Olympic cycling gold medallist Geraint Thomas, now a key member of Team Sky.



me to ignore two ex-Lions captains. They will be hugely-influential on this tour."

Few could begrudge Warburton, who has dealt with the fluctuating fortunes of his 38-cap international career with humility and fortitude. Praises came thick and fast as he helped Wales into the semi-finals of the 2011 World Cup, but was sent off for a spear tackle on France wing Vincent Clerc. The grace with which he accepted his fate was commendable.

He led Wales to the 2012 Grand Slam, only for injury and form to subsequently rob him of his place in the team and the captaincy during this year's Six Nations.

Midway through the championship his hopes of representing the Lions were fading, only for a strong finish and the faith of Gatland to yield the greatest prize of all.

"I've been through a lot in my career for a 24-year-old. I've learned so much from going back to when I first got the Welsh captaincy," he said.

"It's been quite strange as I went from winning the Grand Slam in 2012 to a three-month injury lay-off. I then came into a Cardiff side that was in a transitional season and Wales were struggling, too.

"We lost eight games in a row, and the success that had put us on such a high just disappeared.

"The first few years of my career I was trying to snap at the heels of Martyn Williams and I wasn't playing with a huge amount of pressure. But, as captain, when things aren't going well you are under the microscope a lot more.

"That is tougher. Through it I learned to believe in myself. You realise what to listen to, what to focus on and just what is important in life. Rugby is just a game at the end of the day. You just have to have the right network who trust and support you, and they are who you listen to.

"For me, that is my family, my fiancée, Rachel, and my coaches. I work very closely with my psychologist, Andy McCann, and that is my network.

"I talk to those people when I need to and I appreciate things more now."







**PRIME TIME**  
Alun Wyn Jones has 70 Wales caps and played three Tests on the Lions' 2009 tour to South Africa

Nobody remembers losing tours, says Wales lock

# Lions in a WIN-WYN situation

ALUN-WYN JONES has always adopted a no-nonsense approach throughout his rugby career – and the Lions tour will be no exception.

The Wales lock could prove a cornerstone of head coach Warren Gatland's platform for success.

At 27, he is in the prime of his rugby life, with 70 Wales caps and three Lions Test appearances in the memorable series against South Africa four years ago.

He was touted in some quarters as a possible Lions captain, and although that role ultimately went to Wales colleague Sam Warburton, Jones can still expect a key leadership role.

And the Ospreys forward believes that a series win against Australia is all that matters. "You want to win the series," he said. "No-one remembers a Lions tour if you do not win the series."

"I will never forget (2009 Lions captain) Paul O'Connell saying that last time. If you want to be up there with the likes of Willie-John McBride and the rugby royalty those types of players are, then you have to win a Test series in the southern hemisphere.

"We came close with Wales in Australia last year, but no-one will remember that. We were just a brave second. It is not about the individual Tests, and it is not about winning all the

games on tour. If you have to suffer a loss in the provincial games in order to get a Test series win, then no-one will remember that if you win the Test series."

A second Lions tour was probably the furthest thing from Jones' mind when he suffered a serious shoulder injury during Wales' defeat to Argentina last November.

He underwent surgery and looked likely to miss Wales' entire Six Nations campaign, but he returned in time for title-clinching victories over Scotland and England, performing as if he had never been away.

"I was very fortunate with the way my recovery went, which is testament to the Ospreys medical team for helping me get back on my

feet," he said. "I was fortunate in terms of the way the games ran during the Six Nations to allow me to come back into the fold."

"I was very conscious of the fact Andrew Coombs was playing exceptionally well in the second row, and I was potentially not going to get a look in. So I was fortunate in that regard. And now to go on another Lions tour is pretty special."

"I felt a bit shell-shocked after being selected. I went to see my parents and friends, and I spoke to my girlfriend on the phone and she said 'Why are you so grumpy?' But it was because it takes a while to sink in."

"I had only been playing international rugby for a couple of years before the

last tour, but since then I have had a few injuries between that tour and this tour, as well as being injured this season."

"Four years ago I was pretty new to everything, so I think it does mean a bit more the second time."

"It's an environment where you have absolutely no excuses. That is what they create on a Lions tour, and that is what was created last time. To be part of that is pretty indescribable."

The battle for Test team places to face Australia in the series opener on June 22 will be central to the first six tour games, and Jones said: "There is a lot of rugby to be played. There are 10 games, and six of those are before the Test series even begins."

## FOCUS Five great Lions tours to remember...

### 1997 SOUTH AFRICA

The first Lions tour of rugby union's professional era, and first in South Africa since apartheid ended, produced a memorable 2-1 Test series win against the then world champions, secured by stunning victories in Cape Town and Durban. Wales points machine Neil Jenkins kicked five penalties in each of the successful Tests, but it was England centre Jeremy Guscott's drop-goal at Kings Park that sealed the series and sealed legendary status for coaches Ian McGeechan and Jim Telfer.

### 1989 AUSTRALIA

The Lions' first trip to Australia for 18 years saw them recover from a 30-12 opening Test loss to take the series under McGeechan and captain Finlay Calder. Gloucester and England flanker Mike Teague was the outstanding performer, but the highlight of a 19-18 third Test win came when Welshman Ieuan Evans pounced on a defensive howler by David Campese.

### WINNER

Scott Gibbs (13) congratulates fellow centre Jeremy Guscott on his series-clinching drop-goal against South Africa in 1997

### 1974 SOUTH AFRICA

The Willie John McBride-led Lions delivered a heady combination of scintillating rugby and brutal aggression to win three successive Tests against South Africa and draw the fourth. They travelled home unbeaten from 22 starts. The infamous Lions 'code 99' call – a one-in, all-in battle cry – saw the tourists stand toe-to-toe with opponents whose reputation had been forged on physical

intimidation. The Lions did not take a backward step and South Africa were demolished.

### 1971 NEW ZEALAND

Captained by John Dawes and under the visionary coaching direction of fellow Welshman Carwyn James, the Lions won a Test series in New Zealand for the first and so far only time as Dawes and countrymen like JPR Williams, Gerald Davies, Barry John and Gareth Edwards proved inspired. The Tests in Dunedin and Christchurch produced a win each, but the Lions then triumphed in Wellington and secured a 14-14 draw in Auckland, aided by Williams kicking the only drop-goal of his international career from 45 metres.

### 1891 SOUTH AFRICA

Two years after the South African Rugby Board was formed, a British Isles team accepted an invitation to tour under Scotsman Bill MacLagan's captaincy, although playing personnel largely came from English teams. The tourists won all 20 games, including three Tests, and conceded just one try. They scored a total of 89 tries, with Randolph Aston collecting 30, but kicker Arthur Rotherham racked up most points in an era when a conversion was worth more than a try.

## ...and three to forget

### 2005 NEW ZEALAND

England's World Cup-winning supremo Sir Clive Woodward (right) was given the task of leading the Lions to New Zealand, traditionally their toughest destination, but it proved a miserable mission. Not only did the Lions lose all three Tests against the Dan Carter-inspired All Blacks, but captain Brian O'Driscoll suffered a tour-ending shoulder injury after being spear-tackled during the opening minutes of the first Test. Woodward's Lions were also beaten by the New Zealand Maori.



### 1966 AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Captained by Scotland forward Mike Campbell-Lamerton, the Lions started a marathon 35-game trip by winning both Tests against Australia. But the substantial New Zealand leg proved an altogether tougher proposition, with only a 60 per cent success rate from 25 matches, including defeats in all four Tests. There were also provincial losses to Southland, Otago, Wellington and Wanganui-King Country, and when they stopped off on the way home for two games in Canada the Lions came unstuck against British Columbia as well.

### 1924 SOUTH AFRICA

Under the captaincy of Englishman Ronald Cove-Smith and management of former Wales international Harry Packer, the Lions lost three Tests and drew the other. They also suffered six defeats away from the Test arena, prompting questions about selection. Injuries, though, also proved a major factor, as South Africa's bone-dry pitches claimed a number of casualties and led to players having to cover gaps in unfamiliar positions.

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## FOCUS Five great Lions matches

### SOUTH AFRICA 22, LIONS 23

1st Test, Johannesburg, August 6, 1955

Considered by many to be the greatest match involving the Lions, launching a Test series against the Springboks that is also regarded as among the most entertaining. The match saw nine tries with the lead changing hands four times. The Lions played virtually the entire second half with 14 men, while South Africa missed a conversion with the last kick of the game that would have won the game.

### NEW ZEALAND 3, LIONS 13

3rd Test, Wellington, July 31, 1971

Completed the Lions' only series victory against the All Blacks. The

tourists scored all their points in the first quarter before closing out the Test, which was played in blustery conditions, in ruthless fashion. Welsh greats Gerald Davies and Barry John (right) scored tries as the Lions made it 2-1 in the series.



### SOUTH AFRICA 9, LIONS 28

2nd Test, Pretoria, June 22, 1974

A golden era for the Lions continued when Willie John McBride's tourists thrashed the Springboks 3-0 in the series, with the second Test proving the highlight. South Africa were outscored 5-0 on the try count and were taken apart in a manner rarely seen. Wales wing JJ Williams scored five tries, while half-backs Gareth Edwards and Phil Bennett were in inspired form.

### SOUTH AFRICA 15, LIONS 18

2nd Test, Durban, June 28, 1997

Expectations were minimal when the 1997 Lions, led by Martin Johnson, arrived in South Africa for a series nobody believed they could win. A 25-16 victory in the first Test defied all expectations, but better was to come a week later when the Lions' heroic defence kept the dominant Springboks in check. Neil Jenkins (left) kicked all five of his penalties but the winning points were delivered by Jeremy Guscott's famous drop-goal.



### SOUTH AFRICA 28, LIONS 25

2nd Test, Pretoria, June 27, 2009

The Lions' only defeat on this list and a result that condemned them to a series loss, but there have been few more brutal Test matches packed full of controversy and courage. Two minutes into injury time Morne Steyn (right) kicked a long-range penalty to win the game, but what preceded that was a game of rare intensity with the Lions leading until the 76th minute. Injuries to Adam Jones and Brian O'Driscoll shifted the balance towards South Africa.



# Captain? I'm just pleased to be picked

By Duncan Bech

WHILE bookmakers were busy installing Paul O'Connell as favourite to lead the 2013 British and Irish Lions tour, the Ireland lock was plagued by doubt over his selection for Australia. A season blighted by injury saw him spend most of the campaign

recovering from major back surgery, and it has been more than a year since he has been able to add to his 85 caps.

Confronted with little time to press his Lions claims, he produced an epic display for the Munster in their Heineken Cup quarter-final against Harlequins.

On the strength of that performance alone he overtook Sam Warburton, Brian O'Driscoll and Chris Robshaw in the betting to reprise the captaincy role he filled with distinction in 2009.

But after hearing his name among the 37 read out by head coach Warren Gatland on April 30, the 33-year-old was merely relieved to be involved at all.

"Right up until selection I didn't know if I'd be picked, having not played any international rugby since last March and very little rugby since the previous May," he said.

"It was hard to know if they'd even consider me. I hadn't spoken to Warren or anyone during that time.

"People asked me would I have been disappointed if I hadn't been selected, but I wouldn't because I got back from a fairly serious injury as quickly as I could and played as well as I could.

"So when you give everything you have and come up short, that's just the way it is. There's no point in complaining about it.

"There was so much speculation about this tour. In the Six Nations someone would play a good game one week and they'd have pencilled themselves in for the tour, they'd play badly the following week and have written themselves off, then they'd play well the next week and pencilled themselves in for captaincy. So I tried to avoid the speculation as much

as I could, it's something that probably does you no good following it too closely.

"As captain there's a little bit more pressure on you, wary of what's going on. Six months or even three months ago I didn't think I'd be here.

"It's all a bonus for me and I'm probably a lot more relaxed than I was four years ago."

At 24, Warburton is the youngest Lions captain for 58 years, but O'Connell denies age will be an obstacle to him excelling in the post and has pledged his full support to the Wales openside.

"It's important that he knows myself Brian O'Driscoll and all of the senior players are there for him," he said.

"But having spent a week with him it seems to me he'll be perfectly fine. He's a very relaxed guy and confident in his own ability.

"He's been very successful with Wales, and it's important we back him

“

Six months or even three months ago I didn't think I'd be here. It's all a bonus for me

”

as much as we can, but I don't think he'll need a whole lot of it.

"I was 25 on the 2005 Lions tour to New Zealand and was probably a lot more naive than Sam. He's quite a wise guy, wise beyond his years."

The Lions endured a heroic Test series defeat in South Africa four years ago and, despite that painful outcome the tour was considered a success.

It contrasted markedly with 2005, the first of O'Connell's previous two campaigns among the elite of British and Irish rugby in which Sir Clive Woodward's bloated squad was overwhelmed by New Zealand.

The experiences have prepared the Ireland lock for what lies in wait in Australia over the coming weeks.

"There are going to be some very tough times on the tour and it's important for us to maintain our belief in the talent we have," he said.

"There will be times when we will be criticised and when we feel we're not performing to the best of our ability, that's when it's important that you can maintain belief."



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**ALL-ROUNDER**

Despite still only being 22, James O'Connor has already played in four different positions in the Wallabies' back division



# O'Connor bids to be perfect 10

Mr Versatile ready to step in for dropped Cooper

WHILE Australia bemoans the omission of fly-half Quade Cooper from Robbie Deans' initial squad to face the Lions, spare a thought for the man set to fill the No.10 shirt in his place.

James O'Connor, a player hardly lacking in talent when compared to the mercurial Cooper, was named by head coach Deans as his preferred fly-half for the Test series.

Yet the reaction in sections of the Australian media would suggest the Wallabies are no-hopers without Cooper's attacking genius to call on against a robust Lions squad.

While there is no denying the talent of Cooper, who could yet be added to Australia's squad, the reaction underestimates the star quality possessed by Melbourne Rebels star O'Connor. Such is the range of the 22-year-old's ability he has already played Tests at full-back, centre, wing and fly-half.

O'Connor's attacking threat has been clear to see since he made his debut as an 18-year-old in 2008, allying speed and nifty footwork with a sharp footballing brain and kicking game. His critics are

By **Andrew Gwilym**

quick to point out he has only started one Test at No.10, in his last appearance for Australia against Wales in December 2011. Then, as now, doubts were expressed over whether he could handle the responsibility of steering the Wallaby ship, and Wales were confident of exposing his inexperience.

Australia won 24-18 that day in Cardiff, and Wales got nowhere near laying a hand on O'Connor, who created two of the visitors' three tries. He is taken lightly at the peril of any defence.

And, after an injury-ravaged 2012, O'Connor is more than ready to lead the Australian attack, after enjoying a fine Super 15 at No.10 for the Rebels.

"Obviously it's still early days, nothing's set in stone," he said. "But I've played No.10 all my life, so I'm pretty comfortable there if I get the opportunity."

"If I can put on that gold jersey again, it's going to be massive. I'm pretty comfortable there. I've been playing at 10 most of this year with the Rebels, but it's up to the selectors to pick you and the only thing is going to be we want to play great footy."

"When you're playing for your country, you've got that expectation behind you and I really enjoy that."

But O'Connor remains coy over the possibility of rival Cooper being handed a late call-up. "The reality is players don't select the

team, it's up to the coaches and that's how it is," he said. "I think Quade's been playing really well. He's been playing consistently for the Reds, and I think his game's improved."

Another man the Lions will need to watch is the uncapped Israel Folau. The prodigiously-gifted 24-year-old was a star for the Melbourne Storm, Brisbane Broncos, Queensland and Australia in rugby league and has made an impressive start to his union career with the Waratahs.

Team-mate Berrick Barnes has no doubt Folau has what it takes to make the step up to international level in the 15-man code.

"He's played State of Origin, he's played Test matches in rugby league, so I don't think he's going to be overawed by the intensity of it," Barnes said.

"You've just got less time and space and you can't make as many errors. You've got people breathing down your neck, but he'll be all right with that."

"He's a pretty fair athlete, there's not too much you can teach a guy who's 6ft 4in, incredibly fast and has the sort of hops that he does - he deserves his spot."

“

I've played No.10 all my life so I'm pretty comfortable there if I get the opportunity. If I can put on that gold jersey again, it's going to be massive

”

## FOCUS Tour venues

### HONG KONG STADIUM Capacity: 40,000

■ Saturday, June 1, v BARBARIANS  
Best known in rugby circles as the home of the Hong Kong Sevens, the stadium also hosted a Bledisloe Cup contest between Australia and New Zealand in 2008. It was used in the 2009 East Asian Games and regularly hosts domestic and international football.

### PATERSONS STADIUM, Perth Capacity: 43,500

■ Wednesday, June 5, v WESTERN FORCE  
Formerly known as the Subiaco Oval, it is the home of the West Coast Eagles and Fremantle AFL teams. It has previously hosted Australia rugby Tests and was the venue for five pool matches during the 2003 World Cup.

### SUNCORP STADIUM, Brisbane Capacity: 52,500

■ Saturday, June 8, v QUEENSLAND REDS  
■ Saturday, June 22, v AUSTRALIA, 1st TEST  
Suncorp's rugby roots lie more with league than with union. It hosts State of Origin matches as well as the Brisbane Broncos NRL side. The ground hosted several 2003 World Cup games, including England's quarter-final win over Wales, and has since been a regular venue for the Wallabies.



### HUNTER STADIUM, Newcastle Capacity: 33,000

■ Tuesday, June 11, v NSW-QUEENSLAND COUNTRY  
The Scottish contingent in the Lions party will have fond memories of Hunter Stadium having defeated Australia here last summer. Home to the Newcastle Knights NRL team and Newcastle Jets football side.

### ALLIANZ STADIUM, Sydney Capacity: 44,000

■ Saturday, June 15, v NSW WARATAHS  
The Lions have history at this ground. They clinched the series here in 1989, while the 2001 clash with the Waratahs was marred by Duncan McRae's vicious attack on Ronan O'Gara. In addition to the Waratahs, the ground is home to the Sydney Roosters and West Tigers rugby league sides, as well as A-League outfit Sydney FC.

### CANBERRA STADIUM Capacity: 25,000

■ Tuesday, June 18, v ACT BRUMBIES  
The Lions, inspired by Austin Healey, snatched victory from the jaws of defeat against the Brumbies here in 2001. The Super 15 team and NRL side Canberra Raiders are regular tenants, while the stadium also hosted four pool fixtures during the 2003 World Cup.

### AAMI PARK, Melbourne Capacity: 30,050

■ Tuesday, June 25, v MELBOURNE REBELS  
The newest stadium on the tour, the home of Melbourne Rebels, Melbourne Storm and Melbourne Victory only opened in 2010, with its first game being the rugby league Anzac Day Test against New Zealand.

### ETIHAD STADIUM, Melbourne Capacity: 56,350

■ Saturday, June 29, v AUSTRALIA, 2nd TEST  
The Lions lost on their last visit here in 2001, while Wales suffered a heartbreaking second Test loss to the Wallabies last summer. The stadium also hosted two quarter-finals of the 2003 World Cup. The ground is the current base of the Australian Football League and is the official home ground of five AFL teams.



### ANZ STADIUM, Sydney Capacity: 82,500

■ Saturday, July 6, v AUSTRALIA, 3rd TEST  
The Olympic Stadium from the 2000 Games was also the venue for the finest moment in English rugby history: Jonny Wilkinson's drop goal in the World Cup final victory over Australia in 2003. It also hosted the 2001 series decider between the Lions and Wallabies - what odds a repeat this time round?



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## Lions quiz: test your knowledge

1. Apart from Warren Gatland, who is the only non-British or Irish coach of the Lions in the modern era?
2. In which year did the Lions switch from blue to red shirts?
3. Who had a late try disallowed to deny the 1974 Lions a 100 per cent record in South Africa?
4. When did the Lions last win a Test series?
5. Who has coached the Lions on four of their last six tours?
6. Who was the last Irish coach of the Lions?
7. Who was the leading Lions points-scorer in their last Test series?
8. Which country did the Lions tour in 1910, 1927 and 1936?
9. Who was the last man to captain two successive Lions tours?
10. Who was the last Scot to be leading Lions points-scorer in a Test series?

### ANSWERS

1. Gavin Hastings (1989 and 1993).  
2. 1997.  
3. Martin Johnson (1997 and 2001).  
4. 1950.  
5. Ian McGeechan.  
6. Noel Murphy (1980).  
7. Stephen Jones (39).  
8. Argentina.  
9. Graham Henry.  
10. Stuart Hastings.

# Gatland out to end Aussie jinx

## BETTING

by Mark Tattersall

GIVEN Wales' back-to-back Six Nations titles, it is hardly surprising their coach leads a Lions squad featuring 15 Welshmen.

The Australians, though, might be rubbing their hands together with quiet anticipation.

This may be no vintage crop of Wallabies, and the Lions are rightly 8-11 favourites for a series win, but the Aussies do have the Indian sign over Warren Gatland and Wales.

Australia have won their last eight meetings with Wales, although the last six have been so close that the aggregate winning margin is only 22 points.

It is more than just Wales this time, of course, but it is enough of a form guide to suggest the Lions will not have it all their own way, and makes a 2-1 series win



Fly-half Owen Farrell

for Gatland's men a decent call at 15-8.

After a rugby season in which selection for the Lions squad was never far from the mind, thoughts will now turn to the make-up of the starting team for the first Test in Brisbane on June 22.

With so many Welshmen in the squad, it is inevitable they dominate the betting. Indeed, apart from fly-half, where there is no Welshman

in the squad, and second row, where Irish veteran and former Lions captain Paul O'Connell is top pick, a Welsh player is favourite to be chosen in every position.

Perversely, punters in search of a killing might want to bet against the two players deemed dead certs: skipper Sam Warburton, who is 1-7 to start in the back row, and Irish fly-half Jonny Sexton, rated a 1-14 bet to keep out England's Owen Farrell.

Despite his captaincy, Warburton had to settle for a place on Wales' bench at times this season even when fit, and the man who replaced him, Justin Tipuric (3-1), lurks in the squad, along with Irish rampager Sean O'Brien (6-5).

Farrell's flawless kicking, meanwhile, could upset the odds and if he were to start in the No.10 shirt in Brisbane Stan James would pay out at a handsome 13-2.

## ODDS from Stan James

### OUTRIGHT SERIES WIN

Lions .....	8-11
Australia .....	6-5
Draw .....	22-1

### FIRST TEST TEAM

#### To start at prop

Adam Jones .....	1-3
Cian Healy .....	1-2
Gethin Jenkins .....	7-4
Dan Cole .....	5-2
Mako Vunipola .....	10-1
Matt Stevens .....	16-1

#### To start at hooker

Richard Hibbard .....	8-11
Dylan Hartley .....	5-2
Tom Youngs .....	7-2

#### To start in second row

Paul O'Connell .....	2-5
Alun Wyn Jones .....	1-2
Richie Gray .....	6-4
Geoff Parling .....	7-2
Ian Evans .....	4-1

#### To start in back row

Sam Warburton .....	1-7
Dan Lydiate .....	11-10
Sean O'Brien .....	6-5
Toby Faletau .....	5-4
Jamie Heaslip .....	6-4
Tom Croft .....	11-8
Justin Tipuric .....	3-1



Jonny Sexton is the shortest price to start the first Test – but may not be the cert he appears

#### To start at scrum-half

Mike Phillips .....	4-6
Ben Youngs .....	2-1
Conor Murray .....	5-1

#### To start at fly-half

Jonny Sexton .....	1-14
Owen Farrell .....	13-2

#### To start at centre

Jamie Roberts .....	1-6
Brian O'Driscoll .....	4-5
Manu Tuilagi .....	6-4
Jonathan Davies .....	7-4

#### To start on wing

George North .....	4-11
Alex Cuthbert .....	8-13
Tommy Bowe .....	4-5
Sean Maitland .....	3-1

#### To start at full-back

Leigh Halfpenny .....	1-6
Rob Kearney .....	9-2
Stuart Hogg .....	14-1

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# Youth Football



## Thrill of playing when you're 7!

PICTURED here are those life-changing moments -- when a couple of green-shirted six-year-olds, Ted Lawless and Chloe Adams, got hooked on soccer!

"Nobody ever forgets the thrill of their first football game," says Steve Morrish, manager of Hythe Thunder, whose Under-7 players got their first-ever taste of soccer proper in an end-of-season tournament at Hythe and Dibden's ground, before taking part in their first full league competition next season.

"When you're just five or six years old and you've kicked a

ball around on the beach or in your garden," adds Steve.

"Stepping on to a pitch for the first time, with real spectators watching, albeit just the mums and dads, is a pretty scary thing to do.

"But, within minutes, you see the tension and apprehension replaced by enthusiasm and sheer enjoyment. And from that second on, you're hooked on playing soccer. Forever."

Just in case you don't quite get tactics right first time around, you can always try and fool the opposition -- by playing three Number 7s!

## Shirley football gets kick-start



UPPER Shirley High School has been given a generous kick-start.

Bryan Ruppung, franchisee of the Shirley Road McDonald's restaurant, has donated equipment including footballs, bibs and cones to help the school with their training.

He hopes the new equipment helps keep the students motivated and assists in their practice."

He said: "The school and coaches at Upper Shirley High School are committed to the education and extra-curricular activities offered to the students, enabling access to sport

such as football and hockey for a huge amount of youngsters locally."

David Wilding, the school's head of house, said: "The footballs will be used at break and lunchtimes by students and the cones and bibs donated will be very useful in PE lessons."

The donation is part of McDonald's Club Twinning programme to support grassroots football in local communities.

Bryan Ruppung, far right, is pictured with student sports captains Chloe Musgrove and Alex Donnachie.

## Pace Youth Football Club tournament at



Pic:1647778



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# Youth Football

**Testwood School, May 25. Pictures by Paul Collins**



## Totton win a six-goal cup classic

**AFC TOTTON U16 4 EASTLEIGH U16 2**  
**TWO of the area's great youth team rivals made up for missing out on a game at St Mary's by producing a six-goal classic in the Southampton Youth League U16 Challenge Cup Final.**

With their regular cup-final venue unavailable because of pitch development, and last-week's alternative, AFC Totton's Testwood Stadium, ruled out through a waterlogged pitch, the showpiece final was staged in the impressive surroundings of Sparsholt College.

With Totton and Eastleigh neck-and-neck at the top of Division 1 of the league, Totton having surprisingly thumped their Eastleigh opponents earlier in the week and the title-decider games about to be played, all was set for a great game anyway.

The Young Stags started the quicker of the sides and striker Dan Munday showed his pace as he chased a long ball into the Eastleigh half only to be just beaten to it by keeper Mike Edgar.

Tommy Wright also shot wide and confident Totton went ahead after three minutes. One-touch football in mid-field played in Tom Hogan to beat Edgar from an angle.

Eastleigh repented immediately and saw a deflected shot spectacularly saved by keeper Jack Nicholson.

But Totton increased their lead on 14 minutes, when Josh Jellis slammed home.

Eastleigh carved their own chances, without any success. Left-back Reid Gallagher was the starting point of many of their attacking moves and he used the ball well but his team-mates were struggling to find room against a resolute back-four, with Lukas McCartney particularly solid.

Totton made it 3-0 on 35 minutes, Alex Duthie's 35-yarder beating Edgar all ends up.

Totton's centre-mid-

field combination of Charlie Gunson, Jack Pearson and Tom Pattison lacked inches but, with tireless closing-down, quick interceptions and moving the ball on quickly, they dominated.

Munday and Hogan were willing workers in attack and their speed off the mark caused the Eastleigh defence continual problems. Totton tails were up and their 3-5-2 system stifled Eastleigh attempts to build through midfield.

Eastleigh's half-time pep-talk from manager Stuart Munro almost had an immediate effect as Oliver Bailey headed wide from a cross.

The miss was compounded when Hogan volleyed sweetly home to make it 4-0.

It took a desperate block from Eastleigh captain Jack Smith to prevent what looked like a certain fifth goal.

And the lively Hogan again forced a stunning diving save from Edgar.

The introduction of Bailey into Eastleigh's attack changed the game and his movement increasingly tested the hitherto confident Totton defence.

After he had played-in Hayden Riddett, who saw his effort blocked, Bailey slammed the ball home from close-range.

Eastleigh were pushing, although Totton hit the bar with a crisp volley after appeals for handball had been waved away by referee Steve Currie.

Riddett was again unlucky from distance and Eastleigh pressure paid-off with Bailey heading home from close-range in added time of a thoroughly entertaining match, with both sides playing some very impressive football in a good spirit.

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# Hampshire Cricket Spotlight



## Did You Know?



### ENGLAND'S TOP 10 TEST WICKET-TAKERS

James Anderson, pictured above, took his 307th Test wicket against New Zealand last week to move alongside Fred Trueman in joint third place on England's all-time list.

Here, *The Sports Pink* lists the top 10.

IT Botham, 1977-1992, 102 Tests, 383 wickets at 28.40
RGD Willis, 1971-1984, 90, 325 at 25.20
FS Trueman, 1952-1965, 67, 307 at 21.57
JM Anderson, 2003-present, 82, 307 at 30.14
DL Underwood, 1966-1982, 86, 297 at 25.83
JB Statham, 1951-1965, 70, 252 at 24.84
MJ Hoggard, 2000-2008, 67, 248 at 30.50
AV Bedser, 1946-1955, 51, 236 at 24.69
AR Caddick, 1993-2003, 62, 234 at 29.91
D Gough, 1994-2003, 58, 229 at 28.39



### ENGLAND'S TOP 10 CENTURIONS

Alastair Cook, pictured above, struck his 25th Test century in his 92nd match for England against New Zealand at Headingley, to extend his lead at the top of the all-time list for his country.

Here *The Sports Pink* lists England's all-time top 10:

ALASTAIR COOK - 25 CENTURIES IN 92 MATCHES
WALLY HAMMOND - 22 IN 85
KEVIN PIETERSEN - 22 IN 94
GEOFFREY BOYCOTT - 22 IN 108
COLIN COWDREY - 22 IN 114
ANDREW STRAUSS - 21 IN 100
KEN BARRINGTON - 20 IN 82
GRAHAM GOOCH - 20 IN 118
LEN HUTTON - 19 IN 79
MICHAEL VAUGHAN - 18 IN 82

And the world's top 10 all-time centurions:

SACHIN TENDULKAR (INDIA) - 51 IN 198
JACQUES KALLIS (SOUTH AFRICA) - 44 IN 162
RICKY PONTING (AUSTRALIA) - 41 IN 168
RAHUL DRVID (INDIA) - 36 IN 164
SUNIL GAVASKAR (INDIA) - 34 IN 125
BRIAN LARA (WEST INDIES) - 34 IN 131
STEVE WAUGH (AUSTRALIA) - 32 IN 168
MAHELA JAYAWARDENE (SRI LANKA) - 31 IN 138
MATTHEW HAYDEN (AUSTRALIA) - 30 IN 103
KUMAR SANGAKKARA (SRI LANKA) - 30 IN 117

IN ACTION: Jack Bransgrove bowling for St Cross.



## Simon Walter

simon.walter@dailyecho.co.uk

CRICKET REPORTER

### THERE will soon be a Bransgrove in the Hampshire team as well as in the boardroom.

That is the verdict of Alan Mullally, who has been coaching Jack Bransgrove, 19 year-old son of Hampshire chairman Rod, in recent weeks.

Bransgrove jnr, a right-arm medium-fast bowler, has played two Second XI Trophy games for the county this season.

He has also been opening the bowling with former Hampshire star Richard Logan for St Cross Symondians in the Southern Electric Premier League.

Last month he took 2-32 against the Hampshire academy, since when he has thrived under the tutelage of former Hampshire and England star Mullally, who is working towards his ECB coaching badges.

"I've no doubt that before he's 21 - and that's a conservative estimate - Jack will be a regular in first-class cricket," said Mullally, pictured right.

"He has all the credentials to be a very good fast bowler and has improved a lot in the time I've been

working with him.

"He hits the deck hard, he's confident and he has a fantastic attitude with lots of enthusiasm.

"Jack was one of the country's best javelin throwers for his age group and that helps him do things I was never able to do.

"He reminds me very much of James Bruce, he's a similar sort of bowler but more talented.

"Jack can swing the ball

both ways, he has pretty good pace and at 6ft 11in he's got the height.

"He's a bit of a late developer but fast bowlers don't often develop fully until they're 25/26 and my gut feeling is he's going to make it.

"Some guys you look at and you're not sure because of their attitude, but I've told Jack I think he can make it and if I didn't think that was the case I wouldn't have said so."

O l d

Etonian Bruce, a former teammate of Mullally, took 119 wickets for Hampshire at 32.2 from 2003-07, before embarking on a career in the City.

But Bransgrove jnr has more long-term cricket ambitions. Having left Bradfield School last year, he spent the winter playing Australian grade cricket in Victoria.

Mullally, who played 19 Tests and 50 one-day internationals, took 292 wickets for Hampshire in all cricket from 2000-05, having won the County Championship with Leicestershire in 1996 and 1998.

The 43 year-old first played for Hampshire in 1988 and rejoined the county in 2000, the last at Northlands Road, before the county moved to the ground that Jack's dad had built in 2001.

"I've known Rod since before Jack was born," said Mullally, who is commenting on Hampshire for BBC Radio Solent's online service this season. "Having known Jack since he was a young lad, it's been great to come back to the club and see how he's developed into an excellent athlete."

only worked with him four or five times in the nets and he's made big strides.

"He's a fit young man with his feet planted firmly on the ground. You need ability but a player's attitude is often the difference between making it and not. He's really impressed me.

"Jack wants to learn the art of bowling, like how to construct a spell, and that's what I'm teaching him as well as tweaking his technique very slightly.

"A lot of coaches try and change actions for the sake of it, especially coaches who haven't played the game. We're making very subtle alterations to make him a more efficient bowler.

"I can advise him on how to get wickets, how to construct a spell and when to bowl bumpers.

"But that all comes with experience and all he really needs his games under his belt because you learn the trade in match situations.

"I've got no doubt he'll make it and, while Hampshire have some fantastic bowlers, they need a strike bowler."

Bransgrove jnr lives with his parents, Rod and Mandy, in the Test Valley and played colts cricket for Old Tauntonians & Romsey before joining St Cross last year.

There he has been playing alongside Hampshire players past and present in Lawrie Prittupaul and Adam Rouse, as well as Logan.

FOR THE LATEST HANTS CRICKET NEWS GO TO **dailyecho.co.uk**



# Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

## A New Matt Prior?

**Hampshire keeper  
Wheater hailed as  
an international  
star in the making**

### Simon Walter

simon.walter@dailyecho.co.uk

CRICKET REPORTER

#### HAMPSHIRE could have the next Matt Prior in wicketkeeper-batsman Adam Wheeler.

That is the view of Hampshire wicketkeeping coach Bobby Parks, who has an embarrassment of riches at his disposal this season.

Michael Bates is competing with Wheeler for a first-team place, but Lewis McManus and Tom Alsop provide similar competition at academy level while Adam Rouse is also scoring runs.

The controversial signing of Wheeler has raised the bar, but Parks believes Hampshire have a potential England player in the 22 year-old from Essex.

Parks said: "From my perspective, as the man responsible for our keepers, I'm absolutely delighted to have a wealth of talent to work with.

"Michael Bates is one for the purist. Technically, he's outstanding in all forms but particularly standing up, and, from a wicket-keeping point of view, he's the role model.

"Then you look at Adam, who's a class batter and also a very polished keeper, having come up through the England ranks with the Under-19s. He has decent experience and is willing to learn, but I don't think he's the finished article. I see him as the next Matt Prior.

"We forget how young these guys are, I'm the first to admit I was a better keeper at 32 than at 22. It takes a long time to develop."

The signing of Wheeler, pictured, was the decision of Giles White, Hampshire's first-team manager, but Parks understands the logic.

"We had chats about it and Giles's long-term strategy is to have a keeper-batter," said Parks.

"Most managers would say that's what they want! I have to accept that I can't just provide a keeper and Michael knows that. Competition is healthy and we're continuing to work really hard on his batting, we know he can do it after his hundred at Headingley last year."

Meanwhile, England Under-19 Alsop, who keeps for Hampshire's Under-17s, and McManus, 18, are bubbling under. Alsop's impressive cameo against Lancashire in front of the Sky Sports cameras ten days ago, when he held on to a stunning catch while stood up to Dimi Mascarenhas, highlighted Hampshire's strength in depth.

But McManus is the academy's number one.

"We've been working with both for a few years now and are fortunate to have a good relationship with [the cricket boards of] Dorset and Wiltshire so they came on our radar several years ago," Parks continued.

"They're also different types of cricketers. Lewis is the more experienced wicketkeeper of the two, more technical and in the Michael Bates mould, and he's also a top class batter, there's no doubt about that.

"Tom's relatively raw around the edges, he'll be the first to admit that because his keeping doesn't have a long history to it. But we saw how well he did the other night and that pleased everyone, not least myself."

Meanwhile, the only match action Rouse is getting behind the stumps is on a Saturday for St Cross Symondians in the Southern Electric Premier League, following Bates's demotion to the second team.

"Adam's a Tom Alsop-type, a very talented batter in that he came to keeping a little later than the others and has done very well," continued Parks. "It's a difficult one for him because he's caught in the middle. But his big challenge for the year is scoring big runs and he got an excellent hundred for the 2nds against Northants recently which bodes well.

"He consistently scores fifties and I take my hat off to him for the effort he puts in. We've had a chat about his situation and he knows the challenge ahead. It's hard when you've got five talented keepers and only three positions!

"But someone has to miss out. That's life, that's professional sport."

## HAMPSHIRE fixtures 2013

### APRIL

10-13 Leicestershire (h) ..... LVCC2  
Hants 454-7 dec (J Vince 148, G Bailey 93, S Ervine 69, A Wheeler 56no), Leics 143 (J Tomlinson 4-23) & 182-5. **Match drawn**

17-19 Loughborough UCCE (h) ..... FR  
Hampshire 377-4 (J Vince 114, A Wheeler 102no, J Adams 96) & 189-1 (M Carberry 118m J Adams 61no), Loughborough 163 (D Griffiths 5-68) & 245 (J Vince 5-41). **Won by 155 runs**

24-27 Worcestershire (h) ..... LVCC2  
Hants 500-9 dec (J Adams 219no, M Carberry 62, J Vince 52), Worcs 206 & 252.  
**Won by an innings and 42 runs**

29-May 2 Essex (a) ..... LVCC2  
Hampshire 197 (S Ervine 60) & 199 (J Vince 67, L Dawson 52), Essex 254 & 143-6.  
**Hampshire lost by four wickets**

### MAY

3 Essex Eagles (a), ..... CB40 (FL)  
Essex 244-7, Hampshire 245-1 (J Vince 129no)  
**Hampshire won by nine wickets**

5 Scotland (h) ..... CB40  
Scotland 192-7, Hampshire 194-5 (J Adams 51, L Dawson 54no).  
**Hampshire won by nine wickets**

6 Surrey (a) ..... CB40  
Hampshire 228 (S Ervine 63), Surrey 229-1.  
**Hampshire lost nine wickets**

8-11 Gloucestershire (a) ..... LVCC2  
Hampshire 274 (J Adams 138, D Briggs 54) & 120-4, Gloucestershire 400-4 dec. **Drawn**

19 Durham Dynamos (h) ..... CB40  
Durham 241-8 (C Wood 3-37, D Griffiths 3-42), Hampshire 242-5 (M Carberry 96, J Adams 67)  
**Hampshire won by 5 wickets**

22 Lancashire (h) ..... CB40 (FL)  
Lancashire 244-6, Hampshire 250-1 (M Carberry 150no, J Adams 66no)  
**Hampshire won by 9 wickets**

23-26 Lancashire (h) ..... LVCC2  
29- 1 Northamptonshire (a) ..... LVCC2  
**Drawn**

### JUNE

5-8 Kent (h) ..... LVCC2  
12-15 Gloucestershire (h) ..... LVCC2  
18 Derbyshire (h) ..... CB40 (FL)  
22 Durham Dynamos (a) ..... CB40  
26 Surrey (h) T20 ..... (FL)  
28 Essex Eagles (a) T20 ..... (FL)

### JULY

5 Sussex Sharks (a) ..... T20 (FL)  
8-11 Glamorgan (a) ..... T20  
12 Sussex Sharks (h) ..... T20 (FL)  
14 Middlesex (Richmond) ..... T20  
15-18 Kent (a) ..... LVCC2  
19 Surrey (a) ..... T20 (FL)  
21 Kent Spitfires (h) ..... T20  
26 Essex Eagles (h) ..... T20 (FL)  
29 Kent Spitfires (a) ..... T20 (FL)  
31 Middlesex Panthers (h) ..... T20 (FL)

### AUGUST

2-5 Glamorgan (h) ..... LVCC2  
6 Bangladesh A (h) ..... FR  
6-8 T20 quarter finals  
11 Essex Eagles (h) ..... CB40  
13 Scotland (a) ..... CB40  
15 Surrey (h) ..... CB40 (FL)  
17 T20 Finals Day (Edgbaston)  
20 Lancashire (a) ..... CB40 (FL)  
26 Derbyshire Falcons (a) ..... CB40  
28-31 Lancashire (Southport & Birkdale CC) ..... LVCC2

### SEPTEMBER

3-6 Northamptonshire (h) ..... LVCC2  
7/9 CB40 semi-finals  
11-14 Worcestershire (a) ..... LVCC2  
17-20 Leicestershire (a) ..... LVCC2  
21 CB40 final ..... Lord's

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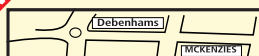
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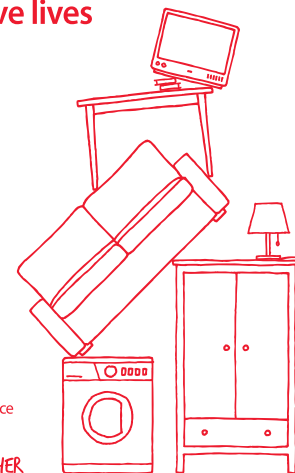
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# Local Cricket Spotlight

## Ord lands May gong

HAVANT seamer Jez Ord, pictured below, has been named ECB Southern Electric Premier Division Cricketer of the Month for May.

He took 13 wickets in Havant's opening four matches, including a 5-30 best return in last week's 99-run victory at Alton, who were skittled for 91.

Leading overall Premier League run scorer, Nick Park has picked up the Division 1 prize.

He has been in top

form for his new club New Milton, scoring an unbeaten 117 in the rain abandoned match against Hook & Newnham

Basics, sharing a double-century partnership with his younger brother James, who was left stranded on 99.

Park, who scored 234 runs last month, including two scores of fifty or more, will be presented with his award during the tea interval of today's match against Rowledge at Fernhill.

Graham Noble's all-round performances for Langley Manor have earned the Division 2 award.

Noble made 172 runs, in addition to taking 12 wickets for the New Forest club.

Jake Lilley is the Division 3 award winner – his 13 wickets for Bashley (Rydal) II included a 6-46 return.



## Double date

TOTTON & Eling face Bashley (Rydal) for the second time in 24 hours tomorrow when the sides meet in the ECB national club championship zone semi-finals at the Linden Oval, 1pm.

They also went head-to-head in the Southern Electric Premier League at the BCG today.

Havant, national semi-finalists last season, travel to the outskirts of Horsham to play Roffey, who are currently bottom of the ECB Sussex Premier League.

Skipper Richard Hindley, who was getting married yesterday, is on his honeymoon.

It's also Village Cup county semi-finals day, with Burridge playing Hambledon at Botley Road, and Hursley Park hosting Ellingham at The Quarters, 2pm.

● HURSLEY Park's visit to Longparish is arguably the pick of Monday evening's (6pm) Winchester & District CA Tichborne Trophy second round ties.

Tichborne Park begin their defence of the twenty20 competition when they host Bishop's Waltham.

Monday's ties: Sparsholt v Chawton, Compton & Chandler's Ford v Winchester, Easton & Martyr Worthy v IBM Hursley, Fair Oak v Millers, Longparish v Hursley Park, Owslebury v Willow Tree, Ropley v St Cross Symondians, Tichborne Park v Bishop's Waltham.

# OUT OF AFRICA ...

## SEPL's links with Zimbabwe blossoming

THERE'S is a distinct Zimbabwean twang to the Southern Electric Premier League these days with seven cricketers from the African country playing locally.

The three Rouse brothers have been playing on the circuit for some time now – Hampshire's Adam and elder brother Darren with Basingstoke & North Hants at the outset, but more recently for St Cross Symondians, writes MIKE VIMPANY.

Elder sibling Grant has remained at May's Bounty and is a prominent hockey player for his home town Basingstoke club.

Middlesex prospect Ryan Higgins has been joined at Bashley (Rydal) by fellow Newbury teenager Brandon Gilmour, while Ventnor leg-spin all-rounder Jamie Miller continues to come across from Western Australia each summer.

Zimbabwe Under-19 all-rounder Ryan Burl jetted in last January for a gap year and is making his mark at South Wilts.

Links with Zimbabwe cricket go back to the mid-1990s when Gary Brent arrived to play for Burridge and went on to play four Tests and 70 ODIs for his country.

Since then, fellow Zimbabwe internationals Charles Coventry (United Services) and Greg Lamb (Burridge/Totton & Eling) have played locally, along with Keith Dabengwa, Craig Irvine and Dan Peacock, who turned out for Lymington.

Adam Rouse arrived in England when he was ten and quickly made an impression. At 12, he became the youngest cricketer to score an unbeaten century in an adult Hampshire League match, with a score of 107 and, after playing for Hampshire YCs and England Under-19s, was rewarded with an Ageas Bowl Development Contract.

He captained Hampshire 2nd XI for much of last season and has made a good start to the current campaign, with an early season century against Kent 2nd XI.

The highlight of Rouse's career so far came during The Ageas Bowl's inaugural Test match featuring England and Sri Lanka when he came on as a substitute fielder and caught Sri Lankan centurion and captain Kumar Sangakkara off James Anderson.

Rouse's subsequent switch to St Cross Symondians quickly led to all-rounder elder brother Darren, who also played Hampshire junior



**QUICK TO IMPRESS:** Adam Rouse made at Hampshire League century aged 12. He's already made a century for Hampshire Seconds this season.

Picture by Jon Williams



**SEPL STINT:** Zimbabweans Brandon Gilmour, left, and Ryan Higgins.

age group cricket, arriving at the Green Jackets Ground.

While Rouse already has the prospect of a cricketing career in his sights, keep a watch on the progress of Burl, Gilmour and Higgins, all youngsters to keep an eye on for the future.

Ryan Burl is a stand-out sportsman in his home country, having already represented Zimbabwe at cricket, hockey and squash at youth level.

He's pretty handy with a golf club and tennis racket in hand as well, so pretty much a natural at any ball game he takes up.

Burl has made 178 runs in his

three Premier League knocks so far – he enjoys talking up his 'average' of 178! – and really caught the eye with a hugely impressive 84 against Havant a fortnight ago.

Earmarked to captain Zimbabwe at the 2014 Under-19 CWC in Dubai, Burl is planning to study at Southampton Solent University so will be playing cricket locally for a few seasons yet.

Burl craves the same First Class ambitions as another Ryan, Bashley's Higgins, who is on Middlesex books and, alongside producing some impressive performances at under-17 level, has already played Second XI

Championship cricket.

An aggressive top order batsman and highly effective off-spin bowler, Higgins – in his A-level year at Bradfield College – helped Bashley (Rydal) finish runners-up in the Southern Electric Premier League last season and also lift the twenty20 Cup under the Ageas Bowl floodlights after that tied Havant cup final thriller.

It's through Higgins that another potential Zimbabwean star has emerged in the form of 16-year-old left-hand opening batsman Brandon Gilmour, who has already made his mark in Second XI cricket and has been trialling with Gloucestershire.

Gilmour is at the same Park House School in Newbury as the Hampshire Academy's Oli Green.

The conveyor belt doesn't stop there as another young Zimbabwean, Campbell Saul – a close friend of Ryan Burl at Peterhouse School – is earmarked to come to the UK next summer.

Saul, anxiously awaiting his A-levels in Harare, will be playing for Hampshire League club Fareham & Crofton in 2014.

**TURN BACK TO PAGES 30-31 FOR HAMPSHIRE CRICKET**



# Local Cricket Spotlight

## Chart topper

NEW Zealander Bill Walsh leads the ECB Southern Electric Premier League run-scoring charts at the end of the opening month of the season.

The 22-year left-hander, below, joined St Cross Symondians at the start of the season under the Mark Parker Trust and has made

234 runs in his first four knocks, three of which were scores of fifty or more.

He hails from Christchurch and plays for Old Boys Collegians,

though he spent the 2012/13 winter in Australia with Adelaide University.

Leading May statistics:

### PREMIER DIVISION

#### Batting

Billy Walsh (St Cross Symondians)	234
Camerson Grierson (Lymington)	204
* Travis Head (Ventnor)	187
* Ryan Burl (South Wilts)	178
Oli Mills (Ventnor)	174
Sean Terry (Bashley Rydal)	174
Rob Gibson (Havant)	174

#### Bowling

Jez Ord (Havant)	13
Darren Cowley (Lymington)	11
Eddie Abel (South Wilts)	10

#### Wicketkeeping

Jez Bulled (Havant)	7
Adam Rouse (St Cross Symondians)	7

### DIVISION 1

#### Batting

Nick Park (New Milton)	287
* Greg Dawson (Andover)	271
Ricky Yates (Rowledge)	196
Tom Gates (Fawley)	186

#### Bowling

Charles Janczur (Liphook & Ripsley)	8
Jonny Hadfield (Andover)	7
Jamie Richards	7
Geoff Dods (Burridge)	7

#### Wicketkeeping

Tom Prodomo (New Milton)	7
Robbie Hadfield (Andover)	6
Jamie Rood (Burridge)	6

### DIVISION 2

#### Batting

Stewart Magee (Paultons)	240
* Dan Payne (Sparsholt)	191
Graham Noble (Langley Manor)	172
Raman Prendergast (Hursley Park)	152

#### Bowling

Graham Noble (Langley Manor)	12
Andrew Denney (Paultons)	12
Dave Cox (US)	10
Nick Wheeler (Hursley Park)	10
Ryan Connor (Basingstoke)	10

#### Wicketkeeping

Matt Branford (Hursley Park)	10
Lee Carroll (US)	9

### DIVISION 3

#### Batting

Matt Benfield (Portsmouth & Southsea)	187
Jake Lilley (Bashley Rydal) II	187
Farrhan Jemildar (Portsmouth)	159
Garrett Ransley (Havant II)	148

#### Bowling

Andy Mash (Fair Oak)	12
* Liam Duffield (Portsmouth)	9

#### Wicketkeeping

Alex Hammond (Portsmouth)	6
Chris Gates (Bashley Rydal)	5

**OTTERBOURNE** have withdrawn their County Division 2 side from the Hampshire League, whose management committee has given the club special permission to continue with its second and third teams in the pyramid.

There is a caveat, however: Otterbourne have been told neither of these sides will be eligible for promotion this season.

County Division 2 will operate with 17 clubs for the remainder of the season.

# ELLINGHAM SITTING PRETTY

**THREE weeks gone, three unblemished records and three clubs yet to get off the mark.**

That's the situation in Hampshire League County Division 1 where Ellingham, Waterlooville and Portchester took unbeaten records into today's fourth round of matches.

Leaders Ellingham hosted Hook & Newnham Basics II at Picket Post today, with the Ville and Portchester going head to head in one of two eye-catching games.

The other is at Warsash Road, where Locks Heath host Gosport Borough.

Ellingham, comfortable mid-table finishers last season, have begun well, with two wins in the Village Cup complementing their initial league successes.

Not for the first time Mark Burrett's inspired performance, initially with the ball and later with the bat, eased Ellingham to victory – a four-wicket win over newly promoted Old Basing securing top place in the CD1 log.

Burrett took 4-40 to have Old Basing in trouble before Matt (39) and Gary Donaldson (41) lifted the total to 187 – a target Ellingham chased down with the all-rounder hitting 65 and one-time Bournemouth colt Brett Spicer 39 not out.

Ellingham enjoy a two-point lead over Waterlooville and Portchester at the top.

The Ville nailed Purbrook by 115 runs at The Heath, but their victory was far from straightforward.

Jordan Price (3-19) and Hampshire under-16 prospect Josh McCoy (2-61) had Waterlooville in trouble at 109-6, but Max Goddard's timely 76 lifted them to 197-9.

Purbrook's problem is that they can't score runs – Sam Hillman following up his seven-wicket haul against Easton & Martyr Worthy with a 3-20 return and John Burnett taking 3-21. Purbrook were 82 all out.

Dave O'Neil simply couldn't keep out of the action when Portchester set out to defend what appeared a modest 155 against Ventnor's newly promoted second string at Cams Hill School.

O'Neil had a hand in eight of the wickets – ripping out the Ventnor top order with 6-33 and then catching two of the lower-order as the Islanders tumbled to 114 all out, teenager Ross Whyte (28) top scoring.

Earlier, Portchester collapsed themselves after Victorian Andrew Webb (35) and Richard Locke (22) had built a decent platform.

Left-arm spinner Dave Bevan (3-37) and teenager Jadon Buckerdie (2-25) caused the slippage before Lee Hungerford (25) guided Portchester to their winning total.

Ventnor's Island rivals Ryde – the pair clash at Hardings Shute on July 6 – fared much better at the Green Jackets Ground, although at 34-3 against St Cross Symondians III they weren't looking that ship shape.

Nick Drysdale (104) and Ben Wadmore (100) sorted that out with a 205-run stand which sent Ryde's score soaring to 295-8.



**UNBEATEN 73:** Hook & Newnham Basics II's Barry Goodman.



**205-RUN PARTNERSHIP:** Ryde centurions Nick Drysdale, left, and Ben Wadmore.



**MATCH-WINNER:** Teenage New Zealander Brad Kneebone, who made 76 not out for Alton II at Midhurst.



**6-33:** Portchester's Dave O'Neil.

St Cross lost five cheap wickets, but James Brook (101), supported by Josh Merluk (45), weighed in with the third treble of the match to steer the Winchester side to 213 all out.

Locks Heath were also in the runs, piling up 264 – Scott Jones (62) and Alex Richardson (52) – before Hook & Newnham Basics II replied with 241-9, Barry Goodman prodding his way to 73 not out.

Fareham & Crofton were full of confidence that they would make it three wins on the spin when they made the short trip down the traffic choked A32 to Privett Park.

But their deeds failed to match their pre-match words as Gosport Borough enjoyed a comfortable 56-run victory.

Put into bat, Gosport Borough's 243-6 was too many for Fareham, who faded after a flying start.

Luke Gould (50) and Ed Whyte (40)

lashed 69 off the first ten overs, but Tom Larnar (3-32), Andrew Blomerus (3-18) and Simon Creal (2-30) worked their way through the remainder of the batting.

Gosport made a rapid start themselves, with Jamie Presswell (37) and Lee Harrop (26) scoring 30 off four overs, before Creal (33) and Craig Stares (39) consolidated things.

With Kiwi Andrew Tidley (39) and Larnar (32) also contributing, Borough posted a handy – and winning – 243-6.

Former Hampshire bowler James Schofield debuted for Easton & Martyr Worthy, but even his presence failed to stop Lymington II from scoring a resounding 133-run victory at the Sports Ground.

The final scores didn't altogether tell the real story as Lymington were rocking at 10-3 before Canford teenager Felix Ambrose (84) produced an innings of pure class and

Shrewton's two-match winning run ended with a hefty 104-run defeat by visiting Rowledge II, while Kiwi teenager Brad Kneebone led Alton II to an eight-wicket win at Midhurst, who were dismissed for 164 (Tom Hughes 61).

Kneebone hit 76 not out alongside Andrew Pearce, who added 36 to his earlier 3-13 return.

**HAMPSHIRE LEAGUE ROUND-UP APPEARS IN WEDNESDAY'S ECHO**



# Horse Racing

# LET BATTLE COMMENCE

**BATTLE Of Marengo can emerge the best of the Ballydoyle battalion and present trainer Aidan O'Brien with his fourth victory in the Investec Derby at Epsom.**

O'Brien struck gold with Camelot last year to add to the successes of Galileo (2001) and High Chaparral (2002) and he is once again mob-handled in the premier Classic.

The presence of five Ballydoyle runners suggests they are planning to stretch the stamina of favourite Dawn Approach to the extreme, confident they have one that stays the trip in Battle Of Marengo.

This son of Galileo has taken a similar route to his sire and arrives with just one defeat in six outings to his name, with that eclipse coming on his racecourse bow.

He went one better than his dad when winning the Group Two Beresford Stakes on his third juvenile outing and, for many watchers, that success sealed his place as a true Derby contender.

Battle Of Marengo has since taken the classic O'Brien route, winning the Ballysax before going on to glory in the Derrinstown Derby Trial.

Neither victory has been particularly impressive but he beat a subsequent Group Three winner in Sugar Boy on the first occasion before

holding off Group One winner Loch Garman on the second outing, staying on strongly over the ten furlongs on both runs.

While he has yet to definitively prove his stamina, Battle Of Marengo should relish every yard on breeding and the fact he has shown he can handle a testing surface is a massive plus.

He is the choice of Joseph O'Brien so is clearly the stable's first string but he may have most to fear from stablemate Mars, who was making eye-catching late progress in the 2000 Guineas, and Elaine Burke's northern raider Libertarian.

On what should be another red-letter day for O'Brien, St Nicholas Abbey can smash through the £5m prize-money mark and complete a hat-trick in the Investec Coronation Cup.

The six-year-old recorded his first triumph since claiming this race last year when winning at Meydan in March, seeing off top Japanese runner Gentildonna in the Sheema Classic.

There were no less than six Group or Grade One winners in the race that day and St Nicholas Abbey accounted for them all, breaking the track record in the process.

He missed his date with Derby destiny back in 2010 but has more than made amends since and can once again account for old adversary Dunaden.

Captain Dunne has not won since claiming the Investec Specialist Bank Dash back in 2011 but could go well at a big price in the five-furlong heat.

He is now rated some 10lb lower than that winning mark and showed sparks of a return to form when second at Chester on his seasonal bow.

Eve Johnson Houghton thinks plenty of Cool Bahamian and after opening his account at Lingfield, he is the choice in the Listed Investec Woodcote Stakes.

Away from the Classic action, Burke can get on the Doncaster scoresheet with Stepping Ahead, a seven-length winner last time who will be going for a hat-trick in the Ladbrokes Conditions Stakes.

Van Percy claimed a competitive handicap at Haydock last week and can go in again in the tote-pool Edinburgh Cup at Musselburgh, while Arbel is the shout in the Premier Actuarial Maiden Stakes at Lingfield.

Carthaginian could also hold the aces stepped up to ten furlongs in the Bettfred Mobile Lotto Maiden Stakes at Newcastle.

Zama Zama is taken to strike in the Great North City Handicap Chase at Hexham, while One Term can get on the board in the John William Deeley Classic Handicap Hurdle at Worcester.



**SECOND FAVOURITE:** Aidan O'Brien and his son Joseph with Battle of Marengo.

## EPSOM DOWNS

Going: Good to Soft-Soft in places

1.35

**INVESTEC OUT OF THE ORDINARY HANDICAP (CLASS 2). £50,000 added 3YO only 1m 2f Penalty Value £31,125.**

1	34-221	SPACE SHIP (24) (D) J Gosden 9 7	W Buick 11
2	02-155	FEHAYDI (36) (BF) W Haggas 9 6	R Tart (5) 4
3	1250-4	MAKAFEH (27) L Cumani 9 3	J P Spencer 2
4	626-34	LONDON CITIZEN (USA) (29) (BF) Mrs K Burke 9 2	J Crowley 5
5	2-2131	HIGH TROIA (IRE) (14) (D) J Dunlop 9 1	R L Moore 3
6	00-214	SALUTATION (48) (D) M Johnston 8 13	F M Berry 12
7	150-43	PASAKA BOY (21) J Portman 8 12	R Kingscote 7
8	51-523	GREEKLY LOVE (USA) (11) M Johnston 8 11	S De Sousa 6
9	321-0	MUNDANESH (IRE) (17) (BF) W Haggas 8 10	R Hughes 10
10	01-0	ST PAUL DE VENGE (IRE) (40) P Cole 8 9	N Callan 8
11	00-1	FORGING THE PATH (USA) (21) R Fahey 8 7	F Tylicki 9
12	003-10	KING MURO (24) A Balding 8 2	Hayley Turner 1

BETTING: 4-1 Space Ship, 5-1 High Troia, 7-1 Makafeh, 8-1 Mundanesh, Forging The Path, Fehaydi, 10-1 London Citizen, Greeley Love, 12-1 others.

2.05

**INVESTEC WOODCOTE STAKES (LISTED) (CLASS 1). £30,000 added 2YO only 6f Penalty Value £17,013.**

1	1	COOL BAHAMIAN (IRE) (21) Eve J-Houghton 9 0	John Fahy 7
2	3215	FAR GAZE (IRE) (31) J S Moore 9 0	L Jones 2
3	06	FLYING AUTHOR (IRE) (16) P McEntee 9 0	A Kirby 3
4	13	HAIBKIDIA (IRE) (17) W Haggas 9 0	R L Moore 4
5	51	IPWCAIN (21) M Johnston 9 0	S De Sousa 11
6	21	MONEY TEAM (18) W G M Turner 9 0	J Crowley 5
7	01	NEIGHBORHOOD (21) R Fahey 9 0	F Tylicki 9
8	1	RIVERBOAT SPRINGS (IRE) (17) (D) M Channon 9 0	W Buick 6
9	1	SOUL OF MOTION Miss G Kellaway 9 0	P C Boudot 10
10	11	INDIAN VOYAGE (IRE) (18) M Barnes 9 10	R Hughes 1
11	61	ZALZILAH (26) J Tate 9 0	N Callan 8

## HEXHAM

Going: Good to Firm-Good in places

1.40

**GREAT RUN ORG SELLING HURDLE (CLASS 5). £3,000 added 4YO PLUS 2m 110yds Penalty Value £2,053.**

1	126P-U	HUMBLE BEN (IRE) (14) A Jones 10 11 0	
2	3PU-U	KAKAL (USA) (F22) (D) J Goldie 7 11 0	H Brooke
3	2233-3	PIMENT D'ESTRIVAL (FR) (26) (D) T Vaughan 10 11 0	R Killoran
4	P0P-P	JUST MADDIE (24) (D) R Nixon 9 10 7	G Rutherford (5)
5	026-U	SEAQUEL (19) (D) A Carroll 10 10 12	T Whelan (5)
6	U	DANSILI DUTCH (IRE) (13) A Crook 4 10 4	B Hughes

BETTING: 2-1 Piment D'estrival, 9-4 Kakal, 3-1 Seaquel, 11-2 Humble Ben, 20-1 Dansili Dutch, 33-1 Just Maddie.

2.15

**JUNIOR NORTH RUN NOVICES' CHASE (CLASS 4). £5,800 added 5YO PLUS 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £3,769.**

1	D33-32	BAFANA CHOICE (5) C Grant 7 10 12	H Brooke
2	3PU-U	BUSINESS TIME (17) H Burns 7 10 12	J England (5)
3	246-0	BYGONES OF BRID (IRE) (21) (CD) K McLintock 10 10 12B Hughes	
4	30-005	DUHALLOWCOUNTRY (IRE) (6) V Thompson 7 10 12Mr T Speke (7)	
5	4130-F	RUN TO PERFECTION (18) S Corbett 6 11 10	J Corbett (7)
6	P469-5	INDIAN VOYAGE (IRE) (18) M Barnes 5 10 12	M McAlister
7	12-RU	MONOGRAM (7) (CD) V Thompson 9 10 12	Mr J Hamilton (7)
8	3232-3	RUDEMEISTER (IRE) (17) (BF) A Parker 7 10 12	K Renwick

BETTING: 11-4 Thunder Strike, 7-2 Haikbidia, 6-1 Riverboat Springs, Ifwean, 8-1 Neighbourhood, 10-1 Cool Bahamian, 12-1 Zalzilah, Money Team, 20-1 others.

2.40

**INVESTEC CORONATION CUP (GROUP 1) (CLASS 1). £350,000 added 4YO PLUS 1m 4f Penalty Value £198,485.**

1	61114-	CHAMONIX (IRE) (230) (D) (BF) A P O'Brien (IRE)	4 9J A Heffernan
2	016-63	CHAPTER SEVEN (42) S C Williams 4 9 0	H Bentley 4
3	105-43	DUNADEN (FR) (34) (D) De Zangries (FR) 7 9 0	J P Spencer 5
4	4	JOSHUA TREE (IRE) (15) (D) E Dunlop 6 9 0	R L Moore 2
5	3303-1	ST NICHOLAS ABBEY (IRE) (63) (D) A P O'Brien (IRE)	6 9 0 J P O'Brien 3

BETTING: 2-5 St Nicholas Abbey, 3-1 Dunaden, 10-1 Joshua Tree, 25-1 Chamonix, 100-1 Chapter Seven.

3.15

**INVESTEC SPECIALIST BANK 'DASH' (HERITAGE HANDICAP) (CLASS 2). £100,000 added 3YO PLUS 5f Penalty Value £62,250.**

1	1364-0	BALLESTEROS (207) (D) B Meehan 4 9 10	W Buick 14
2	0-6420	HUMIDOR (IRE) (20) (D) G Baker 6 9 10	J Doyle 12
3	00546	CONFESSINAL (24) (D) T Easterby 6 9 5	S De Sousa 11
4	1030-3	JIROFT (ITY) (273) (D) R Cowell 6 9 5	S W Kelly 2
5	5310-0	DINKUM DIAMOND (IRE) (18) (D) H Candy 5 9 5	Cathy Cannon 5
6	5353-1	AJJADO (USA) (38) (CD) T Powell 7 9 2	K O'Neill 9
7	006-30	JUDEG N JURY (7) (D11) R Harris 9 9 2	Thomas Brown (5)
8	230-05	TAJAJUB (IRE) (43) (D) P Crate 6 9 1	I Mongan 4
9	65-015	DUKE OF FIRENZE (7) (D)BF Sir M Stoute 4 9 0	R L Moore 19
10	00052	STONE OF FOLCA (255) (CD) J Best 5 8 13	S Drowne 15
11	0-1231	SMOOTHALKINRASCAL (IRE) (18) (D) D O'Meara 3 8 13(4ex)	D Tudhope 1
12	0020-2	CAPTAIN DUNNE (IRE) (24) (CD) T Easterby 8 8 12	D Allan 18
13	04132	LONG AWAITED (IRE) (28) (CD) T D Barron 5 8 12	R Hughes 16
14	00-160	MISTER MANANNAN (IRE) (16) (D) D Nicholls 6 8 8	F Tylicki 7
15	0456-2	LA FORTUNATA (38) (D) Mike Murphy 6 8 7	M J Murphy (5) 6

BETTING: 6-5 Bygones Of Brid, 3-1 Rudemeister, 7-1 Bafana Choice, 11-1 Business Time, Duhalowcountry, Indian Voyage, 16-1 Monogram, 33-1 Dun To Perfection.

2.45

**GREAT NORTH SWIM HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS 5). £3,300 added 5YO PLUS 3m 1f Penalty Value £2,259.**

1	/004-6	DIDDLEY DEE (18) Mrs L Normie 9 11 12	G Rutherford (5)
2	25255-	HEEZ A STEEL (IRE) (71) G Charlton 12 11 8	R Mania
3	34224-	DOMOLY (FR) (39) (C) F Murphy 10 11 1	T Kelly (5)
4	0010-U	OSCAR LENNY (IRE) (28) (D) J Dreaper (IRE) 7 10 12	A Lynch
5	F50-64	PRESENTING JUNIOR (IRE) (18) M Todhunter 6 10 2	K Renwick
6	0342-3	ALMOND COURT (IRE) (28) (CD) R Johnson 10 10 1 S Mulqueen (7)	
7	5P044-	CHERNIK (IRE) (40) (CD) M Hammond 12 10 0	H Brooke
8	5-3361	SOLWAY DORNAL (7) Miss L Harrison 8 10 0	S Mulqueen (7)
9	P23-0	CLOUDY DAWN (24) (CD)BF Mrs S Smith 8 10 0	Mr C Bewley (7)
10	P1P0-6	NICKY TAIL (IRE) (24) (CD) H Hogarth 11 10 0	R McGrath
11	636-42	FLAMING THRILL (IRE) (13) N Alexander 9 10 0	Lucy Alexander
12	POP-00	GO TEESCOMPONENTS (18) K Revely 6 10 0	B Hughes

BETTING: 9-2 Dornal, 11-2 Solway Dornal, Almond Court, 13-2 Cloudy Dawn, 8-1 Diddle Dee, Heez A Steel, 10-1 Chernik, Presenting Junior, 14-1 others.

3.20

**NOVA INTERNATIONAL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS 4). £4,800 added 4YO PLUS 2m 110yds Penalty Value £3,003.**

1	U12-21	OVERPRICED (16) (D) M Barnes 7 11 12	S Mulqueen (7)
2	2/01-P	THE WEATHERMAN (IRE) (28) (D) D McCain 6 11 10	H Brooke

16	6200-3	FAIR VALUE (IRE) (28) (CD) S Dow 5 8 7	Hayley Turner 13
17	006456	SWISS CROSS (27) (C) P McEntee 6 8 6	Racheal Kneller (5) 8
18	516-50	DOCTOR PARKES (14) (D) S C Williams 7 8 5	H Bentley 10
19	000-40	TOP COP (14) A Balding 4 8 5	J Haynes (7) 20
20	01-001	CHURCH MUSIC (IRE) (19) (D) M Scudamore 4 8 4(4ex)P Egan (3)	17

BETTING: 13-2 Duke Of Firenze, 8-1 Captain Dunne, Long Awaited, 10-1 Aljaadd, Smoothalkinrascal, 12-1 Mister Manannan, Humidor, Stone Of Folca, 14-1 others.

4.00

**INVESTEC DERBY (GROUP 1) (CLASS 1). £1,379,500 added 3YO only 1m 4f Penalty Value £782,314.**

1	1111-11	BATTLE OF MARENGO (IRE) (20) A P O'Brien (IRE) 9 0J P O'Brien 9	
2	21-1	CHOPIN (GER) (41) A Wöhler (GER) 9 0	J P Spencer 4
3	1111-1	DAWN APPROACH (IRE) (28) J S Bolger (IRE) 9 0	J K Manning 7
4	51-3	FESTIVE CHEER (FR) (20) (BF) A P O'Brien (IRE) 9 0J A Heffernan 2	
5	120-06	FLYING THE FLAG (IRE) (7) A P O'Brien (IRE) 9 0	C O'Donoghue 8
6	15-3	GALILEO ROCK (IRE) (36) D Wachman (IRE) 9 0	W M Lordan 11
7	141	LIBERTARIAN (16) Mrs K Burke 9 0	W Buick 5
8	1-6	MARS (IRE) (28) A P O'Brien (IRE) 9 0	R Hughes 12
9	5130-1	MIRSALE (38) (C) J Tate 9 0	N Callan 6
10	64-000	OCEAN APPLAUSE (38) J Ryan 9 0	D J O'Donoghue 3
11	1-11	OCOVANGO (28) A Fabre (FR) 9 0	P C Boudot 1
12	11	RULER OF THE WORLD (IRE) (23) (D) A P O'Brien (IRE) 9 0	R L Moore 10

BETTING: 10-11 Dawn Approach, 9-2 Battle Of Marengo, 7-1 Ocovango, 8-1 Chopin, 10-1 Ruler Of The World, 12-1 Mars, 14-1 Libertarian, 33-1 Galileo Rock, 50-1 others.

4.50

**INVESTEC ZEBRA HANDICAP (CLASS 2). £25,000 added 4YO PLUS 1m 4f Penalty Value £15,562.**

1	363323	TEPMOKEA (IRE) (21) (D) Mrs K Burke 7 9 7	S W Kelly 1
2	05-430	SCATTER DICE (IRE) (21) (D)BF M Johnston 4 9 7	F M Berry 6

BETTING: 6-1 Dr Red Eye, 7-1 Gabbiano, 15-2 Khawatim, 8-1 Seeking Magic, Gandalak, Crew Cut, Charlotte Rosina, 10-1 Blue Jack, Titus Gent, 16-1 others.

4.20

**FILM NOVA JUVENILE HURDLE (CLASS 4). £4,800 added 3YO only 2m 110yds Penalty Value £3,285.**

1	AKDAM (FR) (F19) A Carroll 10 12	T Whelan (5)
2	LINDENHURST (IRE) (F23) J McConnell (IRE) 10 12	M J Bolger (3)
3	LUV U WHATEVER (F24) J Hughes 10 12	M Grant
4	ONLINE (FR) Miss T Wiggott 10 12	B Hughes
5	PRECISION STRIKE (F21) R C Guest 10 12	F Keniry
6	HI CANDY (IRE) (F39) B Haslam 10 5	A Tinkler
7	WILD DIAMOND (IRE) (F278) T Vaughan 10 5	R Killoran

BETTING: 15-8 Akdam, 10-3 Lindenhurst, 9-2 Luv U Whatever, 11-2 Wild Diamond, 8-1 Precision Strike, 16-1 Hi Candy, 25-1 Online.

4.55

**GREAT NORTH CITY HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS 4). £5,800 added 5YO PLUS 2m 110yds Penalty Value £3,769.**

1	1111-3	SLEEP IN FIRST (FR) (33) (CD)BF J Ewart 7 11 12	
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3	335-12	SHEIKHZAYEDROAD (21) D M Simcock 4 9 7	M Lane 11
4	6-0401	SIRVINO (7) (D) T D Barron 8 9 5	R L Moore 4
5	210-60	PARTY LINE (14) (D) M Johnston 4 9 5	S De Sousa 3
6	1-4412	DUKE OF CLARENCE (IRE) (12) R Hannan 4 9 3	R Hughes 12
7	3-0P05	JOHN BISCUIT (IRE) (17) (C) A Balding 5 9 0	Hayley Turner 6
8	203-04	FIRST AVENUE (478) Mrs L Mongan 8 8 11	Charlotte Jenner (7) 5
9	133240	AQUILONIUS (IRE) (21) S C Williams 4 8 11	J P Spencer 9
10	12-542	CAYUGA (15) B Johnson 4 8 10	R Tart (5) 2
11	05-404	RIGHT STEP (8) (C) A Jarvis 6 8 10	M J Murphy (5) 7
12	2014-0	COLINCA'S LAD (IRE) (13) (CD) P Charalambous 11 8 5Ressie Joseph (5)	10

BETTING: 7-2 Duke Of Clarence, 5-1 Sirvino, 6-1 Sheikhzayedroad, 7-1 Tepmokea, 8-1 Cayuga, 12-1 Right Step, Scatter Dice, First Avenue, 14-1 others.

5.25

**VOYAGE BY INVESTEC HANDICAP (CLASS 2). £25,000 added 4YO PLUS 6f Penalty Value £15,562.**

1	05-000	PABUSAR (100) (D) J Osborne 5 9 7	Hayley Turner 7
2	360111	DR RED EYE (7) (C) S Dixon 5 9 2	B Cray (3) 13
3	-33114	GANDALAK (FR) (22) (D) D O'Meara 4 9 2	D Tudhope 17
4	200100	THUNDERBALL (40) (D) S Dixon 7 9 1	I Mongan 4
5	014-60	COMPTON (17) (D) R Cowell 4 9 0	Thomas Brown (5) 2
6	34-413	SEEKING MAGIC (14) (D) C Cox 5 9 0	A Kirby 1
7	-12101	KHAWATIM (14) (D)BF N Quinlan 5 8 13	J P Spencer 16
8	030-61	CHARLOTTE ROSINA (28) (D) R Teal 4 8 10	S Sanders 9
9	011084	FOREST EDGE (IRE) (7) (D) P Evans 4 8 10	J F Egan 15
10	011023	CREW CUT (IRE) (22) (D) J Gask 5 8 7	S De Sousa 12
11	313300	AL'S MEMORY (IRE) (14) (D) P Evans 4 8 6	Cathy Cannon 14
12	-65011	GABBIANO (17) (D) J Gask 4 8 3	R Tart (5) 8
13	30-042	TITUS GENT (22) (D10) J Gask 8 8 3	John Fahy 3
14	124026	BLUE JACK (16) (D)BF S C Williams 8 8 3	M Mackay 6
15	20-040	ARCTIC FEELING (IRE) (17) R Fahey 5 8 2	J Quinn 10
16	456-00	ANOTHER TRY (IRE) (7) (D7) A Jarvis 8 8 2	M Lane 11
17	100-00	BABY STRANGE (14) (D) D Shaw 8 8 2	D E Egan (3) 5

BETTING: 6-1 Dr Red Eye, 7-1 Gabbiano, 15-2 Khawatim, 8-1 Seeking Magic, Gandalak, Crew Cut, Charlotte Rosina, 10-1 Blue Jack, Titus Gent, 16-1 others.



# Horse Racing

## WORCESTER

Going: Good

1.55	JOHN BURKE MEMORIAL NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS 4). £5,800 added 5YO PLUS 2m 110yds Penalty Value £3,769.
1 4U2-F1	ALWAYSTHEOPTIMIST (20) (CD) P W Middleton 10 11 12 ... Kieran Woods (3)
2 1450-2	NOMADIC DREAMER (22) M Rimell 10 11 11 ... K Moore (5)
3 0321-F	SPARVILLE (IRE) (26) (D)BF J Brennan 7 11 11 ... J Maguire
4 115F-4	LUCKY VIC (IRE) (32) F Brennan 7 11 10 ... W Kennedy
5 0130-2	STORMY OSCAR (IRE) (20) (D) J Snowden 6 11 8 ... H Derham (5)
6 50-112	ACCESSALLAREAS (IRE) (14) (D) S-J Davies 8 11 8 ... W Kennedy
7 5P2F-2	TRUE BLUE (IRE) (26) (D) N Twiston-Davies 6 11 7 S Twiston-Davies
8 2F53-F	SURF AND TURF (IRE) (278) (D) Jonjo O'Neill 7 11 5 ... A P McCoy
9 1004-3	WALCOT LATHYRUS (65) R Lee 8 11 3 ... J Greenall (3)
10 2PP-F6	PRINCEFUL (FR) (113) (D) J Bradley 10 11 3 ... C J Davies (7)
11 520F-2	CRUISE IN STYLE (IRE) (32) (D) K Bishop 7 10 10 ... James Best (3)

**BETTING:** 4-1 Sparville, 5-1 Accessallareas, 11-2 Cruise In Style, 7-1 Nomadic Dreamer, True Blue, Alwaystheoptimist, 10-1 Surf And Turf, 11-1 Stormy Oscar, 14-1 others.

2.25	CROWNGATE FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK BEGINNERS' CHASE (CLASS 4). £5,800 added 5YO PLUS 2m 7f Penalty Value £3,769.
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1 4131-	ACE FIGHTER PILOT (166) Jim Best 7 11 0 ... A P McCoy
2 11562-	AMBION WOOD (IRE) (121) (BF) V Darnall 7 11 0 ... J Doyle
3 6331-F	COCK AND HEN (IRE) (61) Jonjo O'Neill 7 11 0 ... R McLernon
4 3441-0	CONNECTIVITY (IRE) (15) (D) Dr R Newland 9 11 0 S Twiston-Davies
5 510-F	WATERGATE BAY (IRE) (60) P Nicholls 7 11 0 ... D Jacob

**BETTING:** 13-8 Ambion Wood, 11-4 Ace Fighter Pilot, 3-1 Connectivity, 8-1 Watergate Bay, 10-1 Cock And Hen.

3.00	CHEMICAL CORPORATION 30TH ANNIVERSARY VALERIE LEWIS MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS 3). £10,000 added 5YO PLUS 2m 4f Penalty Value £6,330.
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1 604F-0	PROBLEMA TIC (FR) (15) (D) D Pipe 7 11 12 ... T Scudamore
2 41F63-	THE CHAZER (IRE) (65) R Lee 8 11 6 ... J Moore
3 3P90-0	FINGER ON THE PULSE (IRE) (22) (D) Jonjo O'Neill 12 11 6 ... R McLernon

4 3121-5	ROB CONTI (FR) (34) (D) P Hobbs 8 11 6 ... R Johnson
5 12254-F	IXORA (IRE) (44) (CD) J Snowden 7 11 5 ... J Powell
6 P0323-	HAVE YOU SEEN ME (IRE) (49) (D) N Twiston-Davies 10 11 4 ... S Twiston-Davies

7 F2135-F	MR HUDSON (IRE) (32) (BF) P Nicholls 8 11 4 ... D Jacob
8 13345-F	CICERON (IRE) (21) (D) Miss V Williams 7 11 3 ... A Coleman
9 P60-34	PURE FAITH (IRE) (25) (D) P Bowen 9 11 3 ... T O'Brien

## SOUTHWELL

Going: Good

2.15	BETVICTOR.COM HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS 5). £3,300 added 5YO PLUS 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £2,144.
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1 241-26	KAYFTON PETE (12) (D)BF C Pogson 7 11 12 ... A Pogson
2 4B4-U4	SHAKE THE BARLEY (IRE) (19) (D) T R George 10 11 11 P Brennan
3 622P-0	REG'S RUBY (202) D Bridgwater 7 11 9 ... J Hodson (7)
4 U301-3	ORANG OUTAN (FR) (12) (CD) Miss L Hurley 11 11 7 ... K Edgar (7)
5 452-31	ARROW BARROW (IRE) (19) (CD) J Wade 8 11 2 ... J Dawson (7)
6 4403-6	REASONABLE FORCE (32) K Reveley 7 11 1 ... B J Toomey (3)
7 5P-112	MOSCOW MULE (12) (D) Miss L Hurley 10 11 1 ... E Cookson (5)
8 P20-43	GINGER'S LAD (19) (CD) M W Easterley 9 10 11 ... J Greenall (3)
9 254-43	ROC DE GUYE (FR) (17) H Evans 8 10 4 ... L Treadwell

**BETTING:** 5-2 Arrow Barrow, 4-1 Moscow Mule, 6-1 Ginger's Lad, 7-1 Roc De Guye, 8-1 Orang Outan, 10-1 Reg's Ruby, Kayfton Pete, 12-1 Reasonable Force, 16-1 Shake The Barley.

2.45	25 FREE BET AT BETVICTOR.COM HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS 5). £3,300 added 5YO PLUS 3m 110yds Penalty Value £2,144.
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1 6P3-13	BOROLEE (IRE) (7) (D) F Murphy 10 11 12 ... T Kelly (5)
2 F14-63	MANADAM (FR) (158) (D) I Williams 10 11 8 ... R J McCarth (5)
3 F14-63	QUAYSIDE COURT (IRE) (30) (D)BF Miss C Dyson 9 11 5 ... S Twiston-Davies
4 003-35	MOON MELODY (GER) (10) (D) M Sowersby 10 11 3 Lucy Alexander
5 F22P-0	DERWEN PRYDE (21) (D) P Bowen 9 11 1 ... J Moore
6 0145-F	TISFREEDREAM (IRE) (29) (C)D P Pritchard 12 11 0 ... J Doyle
7 3605-0	HEEZAGREY (IRE) (21) (D) H Evans 10 10 13 ... M Quinlan (3)

## TODAY'S SELECTIONS

**DONCASTER:** 2.00 Swinging Sultan, 2.35 Heskin, 3.10 Baltic Knight, 3.45 Poetic Dancer, 4.45 Stepping Ahead, 5.20 Mr Snoczy, 5.50 Ian's Dream.  
**EPSON:** 1.35 Space Ship, 2.05 Cool Bahamian, 2.40 St Nicholas Abbey, 3.15 Captain Dunne, 4.00 BATTLE OF MARENGO (NAP), 4.50 Duke Of Clarence, 5.25 Seeking Magic.  
**HEXHAM:** 1.40 King Fingal, 2.15 Balding Banker, 2.45 Whiskey Ridge, 3.20 Overpriced, 4.20 Precision Strike, 4.55

Zama Zama, 5.30 Billfromthebar.  
**LINGFIELD:** 5.55 Survived, 6.25 Imaginary Diva, 6.55 Saloomy, 7.25 Arbee, 7.55 Coconut Kisses, 8.25 Plenum, 8.55 Satva Laird.  
**MUSSELBURGH:** 1.50 Mowhoob, 2.20 Pigeon Pie, 2.55 Good Speech, 3.55 Van Percy, 4.30 Bosun Breese, 5.05 Karaka Jack, 5.35 Snow Bay.  
**NEWCASTLE:** 6.10 Uncle Bobby, 6.40 Maggie Pink, 7.10 Carthaginian, 7.40 Arc Light, 8.10 Naburn, 8.40 Bapak

Bangsawan, 9.10 Never Forever.  
**TRAMORE:** 2.30 Orator, 3.05 Summer Star, 3.40 Takeyourcapoff, 4.15 Melanippe, 4.45 Positive Vibes, 5.15 Roja Dove, 5.45 Dynaperformer.  
**WORCESTER:** 1.55 Latest Trend, 2.25 Ambion Wood, 3.00 Have You Seen Me, 3.35 High Stratos, 4.35 Celtic Intrigue, 5.10 One Term, 5.40 Garryleigh.

**DOUBLE:** Battle Of Marengo and St Nicholas Abbey.

### INTERMEDIATE OPEN NH FLAT RACE (DIV 2) (CLASS 6). £2,400 added 4 to 6YO 2m Penalty Value £1,560.

1	2	1	HIGH STRATOS (34) (D) J J Hanlon (IRE) 4 11 6 Mr P Fogarty (3)
2	4-4		ALONGTHETWATCHOWER (IRE) (16) F Brennan 5 11 2 ... S Twiston-Davies
3	03P-P		I'M NOT TELLING (IRE) (26) J G Cann 5 11 2 ... T J O'Brien
4			SIR HARRY HOTSPUR J Mackie 5 11 2 ... L Heard
5			ANOTHER HERO (IRE) Jonjo O'Neill 4 10 13 ... A P McCoy
6			BAKSHESHI Mrs S Gardner 4 10 13 ... Miss L Gardner (5)
7	0-		DR DALWHINNY (41) D McCain 4 10 13 ... J Maguire
8			WENLOCKS BOXER K Bailey 4 10 13 ... E Cookson (5)
9			KATIE'S MASSINI (IRE) Henry Oliver 5 10 9 ... A Coleman
10	0		HALIANA (34) J Upson 4 10 6 ... G Sheehan (5)

**BETTING:** 11-4 Another Hero, High Stratos, 11-2 Dr Dalwhinny, 7-1 Wenlocks Boxer, 8-1 Alongthetwatchower, 11-1 Not Telling, 14-1 Sir Harry Hotspur, 16-1 Bakshesh, 25-1 others.

### 5.10 A & A RACING CONCOURSE BOOKMAKERS NOVICES' HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS 5). £3,000 added 4YO PLUS 2m 7f Penalty Value £1,949.

1	450-0		ABOLITIONIST (IRE) (28) J J Hanlon (IRE) 5 11 12 ... Andrew J McNamara
2	0003-6		AHEAD AHEAD (IRE) (20) (BF) D Rees 8 11 12 ... P Moloney
3	0350-F		LORD NAVIS (IRE) (26) D McCain 5 11 8 ... J Maguire
4	030-U		PIRANS CAR (12) N Hawke 7 11 8 ... M Quinlan (3)
5	0PP2-6		CHOSEN DREAM (IRE) (17) Jonjo O'Neill 5 11 6 ... A P McCoy
6	6P25-0		QUALITEE (31) Miss C Dyson 8 11 6 ... L Heard

4 050F-5	FINCH FLYER (IRE) (15) A Sadik 6 10 12 ...
5 003-24	LATEST TREND (IRE) (24) (BF) T Vaughan 7 10 12 ...

**BETTING:** 7-4 Harry Hunt, 5-2 Brady, 11-4 Muldoon's Picnic, 5-1 Latest Trend, 33-1 Finch Flyer.

### 4.15 NOTTINGHAM CITY TRANSPORT HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS 4). £4,800 added 4YO PLUS 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £3,119.

1	006P-B		LORD GALE (IRE) (27) J Groucott 7 11 12 ... H Challoner (5)
2	001-1		TAIGAN (FR) (19) (CD) G Smyth 6 11 7 ... D England
3	2P05P-0		LUNDY SKY (47) A Newcombe 8 11 7 ... A Thornton
4	02331-		DEFINITE RUBY (IRE) (44) N Henderson 5 11 7 ... D Bass
5	4015U-		CRYSTAL SWING (43) (D) R Phillips 6 11 6 ... S Twiston-Davies
6	14510-		COMPTON LEWIE (21) (D) A King 7 11 6 ... W Hutchinson
7	605-2P		A BRIDGE TOO FAR (IRE) (15) (D) D McCain 7 11 5 ... J Maguire
8	401P-		MURCAR (F10) (D) L Corcoran 8 11 2 ... D Fahy
9	46F4-1		JACKS GREY (33) (CD) F O'Brien 8 11 2 ... P Brennan
10	3310-0		KHAZIUM (IRE) (7) Miss C Dyson 4 10 12 ... N Schofield

**BETTING:** 5-2 Definite Ruby, 4-1 Jacks Grey, 6-1 Taigan, 7-1 A Bridge Too Far, Compton Leo, 12-1 Crystal Swing, 14-1 Murcar, Lundy Sky, Lord Gale, 16-1 Khaizum.

### 4.45 DOWNLOAD THE BETVICTOR APP NOW CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS 4). £4,800 added 4YO PLUS 2m Penalty Value £3,119.

1	356-2		EIGHTFOLD (17) S Durack 4 11 12 ... B J Powell
2	1260-3		BACCAUREATE (FR) (30) (D) Mrs S Smith 7 11 12 ... J England (3)

7	36003-		SWEET PRINCE (IRE) (200) Jonjo O'Neill 6 11 4 ... R McLernon
8	540P-1		MOSCOW IN APRIL (IRE) (28) P G Murphy 6 11 4 ... C Bolger
9	24P40-		LIFE LONG (IRE) (36) Mrs A Murphy 9 11 3 ... T Messenger
10	P60P-6		SIR BENFRO (7) (C) W Goldsworthy 7 11 2 ... J Moore
11	14560-		SHARLENE'S QUEST (IRE) (35) James Hughes 7 11 2 Conor O'Farrell
12	04205-		SOUTHWAY QUEEN (38) Mrs S Gardner 9 11 1 ... Miss L Gardner (5)
13	45P4-1		INDIAN CITIZEN (IRE) (17) A Whiting 6 10 12 ... D Costello
14	0050-P		COWBRIDGE (IRE) (28) P Pritchard 7 10 8 ... H Skelton
15	U000-F		ALL HOPE (13) Mrs P Ford 6 10 8 ... B Poste (5)
16	PP4-P0		NOTCANTDOIT (IRE) (10) P Gundry 6 10 5 ... T J O'Brien

**BETTING:** 11-4 Indian Citizen, 13-2 Pirans Car, 15-2 Lord Navis, Abolitionist, 10-1 Moscow In April, Chosen Dream, Southway Queen, Ahead Ahead, 16-1 others.

### 5.40 JOHN WILLIAM DEELEY CLASSIC HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS 3). £8,300 added 4YO PLUS 2m 4f Penalty Value £5,393.

1	/254-1		ONE LUCKY LADY (28) (D) N Henderson 5 11 12 ... Mr N De Boinville
2	000-41		KNIGHT IN PURPLE (9) J Mackie 9 11 9 ... Peter Carberry (3)
3	4511-5		DOLATULO (FR) (38) (D) W Greatrex 6 11 5 ... W Hutchinson
4	3605-3		ONE TERM (IRE) (15) Miss R Curtis 6 11 3 ... P Corbett (7)
5	110-4P		CROSS OF HONOUR (IRE) (10) (D) C Longdon 6 11 2 ... N Feihly
6	6/85-1		SAINT ROQUE (FR) (6) P Nicholls 7 11 2(Tex) ... D Jacob
7	16FP-0		MISTER HYDE (IRE) (15) (D) Jonjo O'Neill 8 11 1 ... A P McCoy
8	P1460-		SKINT (173) (D) Miss A Brewer 7 11 0 ... A Coleman
9	12403-		BATHWICK MAN (216) (CD) D Pipe 8 10 13 ... T Scudamore
10	0041-3		QUINTON (FR) (217) (CD) D Pipe 9 10 13 ... Conor O'Farrell
			SIR FREDLOT (IRE) (20) B Powell 4 10 9 ... B J Powell

**BETTING:** 5-2 Saint Roque, 4-1 Dolatulo, 13-2 One Lucky Lady, Knight In Purple, 10-1 One Term, Sir Fredlot, 11-1 Bathwick Man, 14-1 Cross Of Honour, 20-1 others.

### 6.15 TRAMPS & VELVET NIGHTCLUB MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS 4). £4,800 added 4YO PLUS 2m 4f Penalty Value £3,119.

1	40/53		DANCE FLOOR KING (IRE) (9) C A Murphy (IRE) 6 11 0 ... Andrew J McNamara
2	225-22		GARRYLEIGH (IRE) (11) D Pipe 6 11 0 ... T Scudamore
3	3/545-		ITS A MISTAKE (IRE) (46) J Bradley 6 11 0 ... C Wallis (5)
4	300-5B		MORE GLORY (IRE) (7) W Goldsworthy 5 11 0 ... J Moore
5	4444-0		NAIL 'M (IRE) (23) N Hawke 5 11 0 ... M Quinlan (3)
6	5424P-0		RECORD BREAKER (IRE) (251) D McCain 9 11 0 ... J Maguire
7	/000-F		TINELRYA (IRE) (23) S Lyett 7 11 0 ... D England
8	4422-		COOL HAND LUKE (IRE) (F8) I Williams 4 10 10 ... R J McCarth (5)
9	0-0R4		LUCCETTE (8) M B Shires 5 10 7 ... A Glassonbury
10			VALKOV (F29) A Carroll 6 10 7 ... W Hutchinson

**BETTING:** 11-10 Garryleigh, 7-2 Dance Floor King, 5-1 Cool Hand Luke, 10-1 Record Breaker, 12-1 Its A Mistake, 16-1 Nail 'm, 25-1 More Glory, Tinelrya, 33-1 others.

## Sunday's runners

3	12000-		TINSELTOWN (FR) (D) B Rothwell 7 11 10 ... Lucy Alexander
4	0003-4		HIDE (IRE) (19) (CD) J R Jenkins 9 11 10 ... P Corbett (3)
5	6236P-		TRI NATIONS (JAE) (F77) (D) A Middleton 8 11 10 ... M Morris (8)
6	/6023-		EL TOREROS (USA) (240) T Vaughan 5 11 13 ... James Best
7	5235-2		ENGAI (GER) (5) D Bridgwater 7 11 8 ... J Hodson (8)
8	0001-		BROCTUNE PAPA GIO (93) (K) K Reveley 6 11 2 ... B J Toomey
9	035-01		FITANDPROPERJOB (14) A Middleton 7 10 10 ... M Morris (6)
10	33064-		STADIUM OF LIGHT (IRE) (219) S A Harris 6 10 9 ... B Poste
11	0P060-		AUGHCARRA (IRE) (213) (D) H Chisman 8 10 0 ... J Popham

**BETTING:** 7-2 Baccalaureate, 4-1 Eightfold, 5-1 El Toreros, 6-1 Engai, 7-1 Broctune Papa Gio, 8-1 Fitandproperjob, 14-1 H Tide, 16-1 Tri Nations, Tinseltown, 25-1 others.

### 5.15 BETVICTOR CASINO ON YOUR MOBILE HANDICAP HURDLE (SUNDAY 5K BONUS RACE) (CLASS 4). £4,800 added 4YO PLUS 3m 110yds Penalty Value £3,119.

1	3550-6		ANDHAAR (17) R Phillips 7 11 12 ... J Maguire
2	4551-5		RICH BUDDY (29) (D) R Phillips 7 11 12 ... J Popham
3	0661-3		BLACKWELL SYNERGY (FR) (29) (D) Jonjo O'Neill 7 11 7 ... R McLernon
4	533P-1		UP FOR AN OSCAR (IRE) (24) (C) K Bailey 6 11 6 ... E Cookson (5)
5	/030-6		FRONTIER DANCER (IRE) (33) (D) Mrs L Hill 9 11 2 ... D Bass
6	2/600-		THE POTTING SHED (IRE) (137) Miss E Lavelle 6 11 1 ... T Cannon
7	0P152-		THE SHY MAN (IRE) (59) (D) G M Moore 10 11 0 ... J Keniry
8	0332-2		FORTUNA ROSE (171) S Smith 7 10 11 ... S Twiston-Davies
9	36P5-2		FATHER SHINE (IRE) (17) (C) S A Harris 10 10 8 ... B Poste (5)
10	46200-		ROYAL DELT (43) (D) M W Easterley 6 10 7 ... J Greenall (3)

**BETTING:** 3-1 Fortuna Rose, 9-2 Blackwell Synergy, 5-1 Up For An Oscar, 6-1 Rich Buddy, 8-1 Father Shine, 10-1 Andhaar, 12-1 The Potting Shed, 14-1 Frontier Dancer, 16-1 others.

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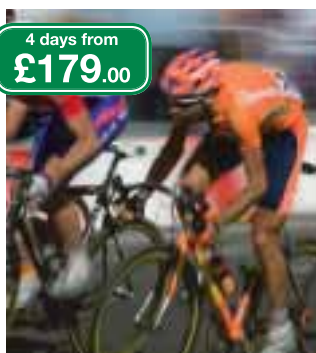
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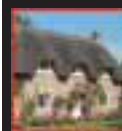
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# Youth Sport Special

# SPITFIRES CAN'T TAME THE BULLS

**SOUTHAMPTON Spitfires under-14s fell to a 40-26 London Junior League defeat after a late try blitz at Brixton Bulls last weekend.**

Brixton scored three tries in the last quarter of the match to seal the win but it was the Spitfires who started the stronger, racing into an early 10-0 lead.

Good approach work from Southampton's pack took them to within 10 metres of the Bulls' line. From there the ball was spread wide allowing second rower Ethan Carpenter to squeeze in at the corner for an unconverted try.

The Bulls knocked on from the restart and Chris Wallis punished the mistake, collecting the ball and darting his way over with a powerful run. Full-back Ewan Watson added the extras.

A series of Spitfires' handling errors compounded by an increasing one sided penalty count gifting the Bulls enviable field position and, from their prolonged encampment on Southampton's 20-metre line Brixton managed two tries, levelling the scores at 10-10 before Southampton were able to hit back.

Watson crashed over from close

range and was involved again when he aimed a sixth tackle kick into the corner. Adam Warner dived on the loose ball for a well worked try. Again the Bulls fought back and two more tries brought them to within two points at the break with the scores at 22-20.

However, the second period belonged to the Bulls.

The home side upped the tempo and their big players made much better yardage as the half went on. Brixton took the lead for the first time five minutes after the restart with an unconverted score following good forward work which laid a try on for the winger.

Southampton mustered an immediate reply when Warner crossed from close range, temporarily restoring a two point lead at 24-26 but the win would once again prove elusive for the Spitfires.

Despite a higher completion rate in the last third of the match Southampton were unable to back up their efforts in defence, allowing the home side to run in a further three tries for a somewhat flattering 40-26 victory.

For details on all fixtures and training dates visit [www.southampton-spitfires.co.uk](http://www.southampton-spitfires.co.uk)



**CRASH:** Southampton Spitfires run into a tough Brixton Bulls line.

## Saints end season with cup demolition

**SOUTHAMPTON** Saints Girls & Ladies under-16s signed off their season in style with an 11-0 win over Winchester City Flyers in the Cardington Cup final.

The Saints steamrollered their opposition, with goals from Bonnie Browning, Livvy Jones, two from Megan Chapman and one from Rawlings giving Saints a 5-0 lead at the break.

In the second half Amber Siley, Knapton and Rawlings each scored a brace to round off a tournament win that more than made up for their penalty shoot-out defeat in the final of the Wokingham tournament at the hands of old rivals Ascot United.

The club's under-15s also claimed a tournament win with victory at the Thatcham Town six-a-side.

Both Saints sides cruised through their group stages and met in the semi-finals.



The Saints' Rovers side triumphed and went on to win the final 2-0 with a rare goal for left back Coral Oakley.

The club's under-13s completed their Winchester & District League season with a 4-3 win over Warsash

Black.

Leah Brown opened the scoring for Saints, soon followed by Alisha Buckingham grabbing the second.

Warsash pulled one back after the break and levelled

soon after, then completed an amazing turnaround when they bagged a third.

Shell-shocked Saints pulled themselves together and equalised through Buckingham.

Then, after Saints had hit

### DOUBLE WINNERS:

Southampton Saints under-16s. Back, left to right: Bonnie Browning, Livvy Jones, Megan Chapman, Hannah Knapton, Katherine Robertson, Coral Oakley, Beth Whitehorn, Amber Siley. Front: Peter Home (manager), Bekah Tonks, Tiffany Eley, Elle Pearce, Lucy Venables, Georgina Axton, Isobel Glover, Rebecca Collins.

the woodwork a number of times, Brown popped up to get the winner to seal Saints' third place in the league.

The under-tens were beaten in the final of the Thatcham tournament on penalties.

### NON-LEAGUE EXTRA

## Dons sign H&W star

LEFT-SIDED midfielder Chris Arthur has joined npower League Town club AFC Wimbledon from Havant & Waterlooville.

The 23-year-old, who started his career with QPR, spent last season in the Blue Square Bet South with Havant after previous spells with Northampton Town and Rotherham.

After concluding his first summer signing, Dons boss Neal Ardley said: "We have watched Chris a lot during the last season and, though he is not a high profile signing, I am sure Wimbledon's fans will be excited by his talents."

"He had a great season at Havant and we believe he will fit in well with the dynamics of our team."

Enfield-born Arthur, who has yo-yoed between League and non-League football since leaving QPR, said his move to Wimbledon would not have been possible without the support of everyone at Havant.

Thanking fans on the club website, he said: "Last season's performances on the pitch and being awarded fans' player-of-the-year has to go down as the pinnacle of my career so far."

"The one thing I'm certain of is that under the gaffer (Lee Bradbury), his staff and the current squad of players, the Hawks have got a bright future ahead. Havant will always have a very special place in my heart."

## Volunteers required

FAREHAM Town urgently require volunteers as the club prepare for another Sydenhams Premier season.

Having taken on the job of secretary, the time has come for Paul Proctor to hand over the role of matchday programme editor to someone new.

The post would suit someone looking to get into sports journalism, as would the other vacant job of match reporter/press contact, whose main task would be to attend first-team matches and prepare a report for the club website.

On a less glamorous note, Fareham could also do with extra cleaners for changing rooms.

"With so few of us volunteering at the moment, those of us who have been sharing the load between us are finding it increasingly difficult to find time for everything else we need to do in our own busy lives away from the club," said Proctor.

"Without volunteers, this club will die."

Anyone interested in helping out can contact Paul Proctor via [spodge68@gmail.com](mailto:spodge68@gmail.com)

Fareham kick off their pre-season campaign away to AFC Stoneham on Tuesday, July 9 (6.45pm). Their first home friendly is against Havant & Waterlooville on Tuesday, July 23.

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